

Wilson statement heartens EEC supporters

Wilson told the Commons yesterday that he considered himself bound by Labour's election manifesto on the terms of continued membership of the European Community, but not by party conference resolutions. Pro-EEC MPs found his summit report encouraging.

Tory praise embarrasses Prime Minister

High Noyes, Tory MP for Haringey, Tottenham, and a leading opponent of British membership of the Community, demanded to know whether the Prime Minister had any regrets about his statement that he would advise the British people to accept the conclusion of any decision by the Labour Party conference. To the discomfiture of those who consider as sacrosanct all motions passed at Labour Party conferences, Mr Wilson replied that what he had said about commending the terms was "entirely in accordance with the manifesto on which I fought two elections."

By the terms in the manifesto. He said every member of the party had been elected on the manifesto and every one of their constituents would expect them to honour its terms. On the vexed question of the renegotiation of Britain's contribution to the Community budget, Mr Wilson indicated a new approach. He said that the Government would think it right that Britain's contribution should be bigger in the 1980s once it had begun to reap the benefits of North Sea oil. This would happen only if the terms were acceptable, including a reduced budgetary contribution in the 1970s while the costs of entry into the Community showed a net disbalance for Britain.

Missing MP 'was spy' says Czech defector

By Michael Horsnell and Christopher Walker. Mr John Stonehouse, the missing Labour MP, was one of three members of Parliament in the 1960s who were named as spies by Mr Josef Frolík, a defector from Czechoslovak intelligence officer. The allegations were made after Mr Frolík defected after the Russian invasion of Czechoslovakia and passed on detailed evidence to the Central Intelligence Agency during a debriefing which lasted several months.

25-nation cartel says it will stop Britain's sugar if price talks fail

By Hugh Clayton. No sugar will be sent to Britain from 25 cane-producing countries until a high enough price is agreed, producer representatives said in London yesterday. They want £300 a ton. Britain has offered £200, compared with £140 being paid under the almost defunct Commonwealth Sugar Agreement.



'Times' man tells of death threat

By Stuart Stirling, Buenos Aires Correspondent of The Times, who left Argentina at the weekend after receiving a death threat. At about 10 pm on December 4, I was walking in central Buenos Aires towards the offices of the English-language newspaper, the Buenos Aires Herald, to visit some friends.

School meals up 3p 15p from April

Devlin, Labour MP for Haringey, Tottenham, said that the Government was going up 2p to 15p a day from 2p to 15p a day from Mr Prentice, Secretary for Education, said in a Commons answer yesterday. It is an increase since 1971. Prentice said the present was less than two fifths average cost of providing a meal. Increase has been timed to coincide with revised rates of allowances and supplementary benefits. There will be a new remission scale, on parents' incomes, on entitlement to free meals or reductions in the rank. Field, director of the Poverty Action Group, said it was a grave danger to the increase would be met by demands for wages. Government will find ways to be very cheap, he said. He said that the Government was breaking his post-election promise to help families on inflation. Mr Field said:

France and America agree on oil and gold

From Fred Emery, Fort de France, Dec 16. France and the United States today announced striking new agreements for a common approach to the complex of world economic problems. In a joint communiqué issued at the end of the meeting between President Giscard d'Estaing and President Ford on Martinique, the two countries declared that "consistent economic policies" were imperative on both sides of the Atlantic to avert unemployment while fighting inflation. Official gold holdings might be upvalued to current market prices by any country that wished. A phased timetable was needed for a grand conference between oil importing and exporting countries. Probably of greater importance than these specific agreements, however, was the hope that France had been "brought back on board" the Western alliance, as one of President Ford's close advisers put it last night.



The Presidents of the United States and France chat informally before the summit concluded.

Labour MPs criticize Co-op deal

By Our Industrial Editor. The Co-operative Insurance Society's decision to retain Mr Harry Hyams as chairman and managing director of the Oldham Estate property group came in for criticism yesterday as Labour and Co-operative MPs sought assurance that future policies will conform to Co-operative principles. It was disclosed that the insurance company's takeover of Mr Hyams' empire had not been approved by the parent Co-operative Wholesale Society's board of directors.

Fish Rail pensions cash into Old Masters

Madeline Norman, British Rail Pension Fund, said that the pension fund was to be sold to the rescue of the fund. British Rail told me that its pension fund was to be sold to the rescue of the fund. British Rail told me that its pension fund was to be sold to the rescue of the fund.

Sharp decline in industrial output

Fresh evidence published yesterday by the Government that output in many of Britain's key industries is either stagnating or falling, will intensify fears that the country is sliding into an economic recession. Official indices of industrial production for October show that output was down for the third month in a row, by some 45 per cent of Britain's entire output of goods and services, was 2.2 per cent lower between August and October than in the corresponding period of 1973, just before last winter's energy crisis. Page 19

Safety moves planned at homes for aged

Nottinghamshire County Council, which runs the Fairfield old people's home where fire killed 18 residents on Sunday, is to accelerate expenditure of £36,000 on improving fire precautions at its homes. But priority improvements are to be carried out on two-storey homes, not single-storey buildings like the Fairfield home. The council is to be asked to invite Mrs Castle, Secretary of State for Social Services, to set up an independent inquiry into the fire. Page 2

The Pope condemns Church ferment

The Pope yesterday marked the coming of Holy Year with an apostolic exhortation to unity within the Roman Catholic Church. He condemned as dangerous the "ferments of infidelity to the Holy Spirit" inside the Church. The promoters and victims of this process were attempting to undermine the Church from within, he stated. Page 17

China to 'settle down'

Chairman Mao Tse-tung has told the Chinese that after the Cultural Revolution it is now "time to settle down". A statement by the Chairman to that effect, whose authenticity has been confirmed, has been put up in public places outside Peking. Page 6

Snow reports begin

The first of The Times series of snow reports appears today. This service, covering in all about 120 resorts in the Alps and Norway, will be published daily throughout the winter. Page 9

Beavery awards: The Queen's list includes the George Medal for a Devon fireman who risked his life to save three people

Paris: M Chaban to challenge M Chirac over seizure of post of Gaullist party secretary while remaining Prime Minister. Page 4

Visual arts: Sir Ernst Gombrich, the father of scientific art history, has been awarded the 1975 Erasmus prize, worth about £14,300

Sugar: A two-page Special Report briefing on the background to the world shortage. Page 24-25

Rhodesia plan for black rule after five years

Black Rhodesians, under a plan formulated by Mr Vorster and accepted at the Lusaka talks, are promised majority rule after five years. Parliament, which would probably sit five years. Meanwhile, Mr Garfield Todd, the former Rhodesian Prime Minister, is still waiting for the restriction order on him to be lifted. Page 5

Cuts worry Dr Luns

Dr Luns, secretary-general of Nato, said in London yesterday that he could not conceal his disquiet at the political and psychological effect of Britain's proposed defence cuts. His greatest concern was for Nato's southern flank, where Soviet activities were increasing. Page 4

Foreign doctors

Britain is relying more than ever on overseas-born doctors, the Chief Medical Officer's annual report says. More will be needed every year to 1983 if the health service is to grow. The number of foreign doctors in general practice is also rising. Page 4

Taking empty homes

Requisition powers to enable local authorities to take over empty properties were called for yesterday in a Shelter report which denounced the growing practice of sending homeless families to cheap bed-and-breakfast hotels. It says companies are beginning to acquire houses for local authority bed and breakfast as a profitable business. Page 3

Lian general arrested

Peter Nichols, British Army general staff, was arrested on charges of conspiracy. He is the serving general to face a charge connected with alleged subversion. A warrant was signed by Giovanni Tamburino, the investigating magistrate, as been preparing a case against alleged members of a ring conspiracy whose name was: Rosa dei ventral Vito Miceli, the head of the secret service, rested last month accused of this group. General Ricci, who is 52, had led the Military of Modena and then of Italy's best-known regiments on the northern frontier before going to Algeria and later to Rome. A statement issued after rest he appealed for the of the 2,000 officers he trained at the academy re-

Advertisement for Arthur Bell & Sons Ltd Distillers Perth Scotland. Text: "We take this opportunity to wish our many friends the compliments of the season and best wishes for 1975". Includes an image of a bottle of Bell's whisky.

HOME NEWS

Home where 18 died not on county list for priority improvements

From Arthur Osman Nottingham

Nottingham County Council, which is preparing to finance an independent inquiry into the fire that killed 18 people at an old people's home at Edwalton on Sunday, is to speed the expenditure, agreed only 11 days ago, of £36,000 to improve fire precautions in its homes.

That was stated yesterday by Mr Richard Wilson, leader of the council, whose social services committee discussed the question in November and took its request for approval before the finance committee on December 5.

In a report on that occasion it was stated that the chief fire officer's requirements for fire precaution equipment and services were incorporated in any buildings at sketch plan stage. At the client hand-over the chief fire officer certifies that the stipulated requirements have been met but no further check is carried out since the building is occupied. Sixty-four buildings of all types and ages have recently been rechecked by the chief fire officer, and this has identified deficiencies in all but 28, ranging from minor defects like door closers to the need for additional fire escapes or self-closing fire doors.

In a section of the report relating specifically to homes for the elderly and the question of fire and smoke barriers, it was stated that recent reports about fires in the United Kingdom had drawn attention to the hazard to life caused by the spread of smoke through concealed parts of the building structure such as roof voids.

That could cause asphyxiation of the occupants in the associated rooms. The report continued:

This is of particular significance in homes for the elderly, where certain residents may be prescribed sleeping tablets or other drugs by their GPs and may sleep very heavily. Recent spot checks on a number of homes for the elderly indicate that additional barriers and remedial work may be required to arrest the possible spread of smoke and fire through structural voids.

The report said it might be possible to combine inspection and the required remedial works at the time when redecoration was carried out to cause minimum disruption to residents. It was agreed to spend the £36,000 on improvements over the next three years.

Mr Henry Swain, the county architect, was authorized to investigate the fire and smoke barrier provision in concealed parts of the building structure of homes for the elderly and to rectify any deficiencies.

A third decision was taken to install automatic fire alarms to alert the emergency services in homes of more than one storey.

The Fairfield home at Edwalton was a single-storey building, not a two-storey structure requiring priority improvement work. Mr Albert Thornhill, the county's chief



Mrs Jill Herbert, night attendant at the Fairfield home.

The council would also be meeting the cost of replacing survivors' personal belongings. Mr Edward Culham, the director of social services, is to examine staffing levels in the county's homes, particularly at night.

Home Office scientists and a team from the Fire Research Establishment at Borehamwood, Hertfordshire, searched among the debris yesterday for clues.

It is likely to be some days before any conclusive judgment can be given.

Of the 18 who died, 16 were women and two were men.

Fire alert: Seventy elderly people left the Kentcliffe Hotel at Cliftonville, Kent, yesterday morning when the fire alarm sounded (the Press Association reports). Firemen found that heat from the basement boiler room had set off the alarm.

Parliamentary report, page 10

Building system criticized

By Our Planning Reporter

The Clasp (Consortium of Local Authorities' Programme) industrialized building system used in the construction of the Fairfield home was first developed in Nottinghamshire about 13 years ago by Sir Donald Gibson, the county's former chief architect. Its light weight and flexibility were considered to make it particularly suitable for areas liable to mining subsidence.

The system has been periodically criticized, particularly in trade journals, which have drawn attention to the inherent fire risks.

An article in *Building Design* last month, commenting on a fire at Ullsworth comprehensive school in Washington New Town,

Tories face new clash on ballot for leadership

By George Clark Political Correspondent

When the Conservative Party gets the revised plan for the election of its leader today a new dispute is likely to break out over the proposed rule which would virtually exclude the opportunity for Mr Heath to be re-elected in the first ballot.

Details of the revised rules, which have "leaked" to Conservative backbenchers, indicate that in the first ballot Mr Heath would have to obtain 65 per cent of the vote to win. To win under existing rules the leading candidate must receive both an overall majority and 15 per cent more of the votes cast than any other candidate.

Under the proposed new rule, Mr Heath would need 179 votes. When the party voted in 1965 he got 152 votes against Mr Reginald Maudling's 133, and Mr Enoch Powell's 15.

Mr Heath did not then obtain the necessary margin, but a second ballot was not held because Mr Powell had been eliminated. Mr Maudling decided not to carry his challenge further, and no other candidate came forward.

The opportunity for new candidates to intervene after a decision had been made has been included in the revised plan. Thus possible contenders like Mr Du Cann, the chairman of the 1922 Committee, and Mr Whitlaw, chairman of the Conservative Party, could wait on the sidelines to see how the expected straight fight between Mr Heath and Mr Thatcher.

Mr Heath's supporters argue that all contenders should stand in the first ballot and that the leader should be chosen by a process of elimination. One suggestion being canvassed is that the revised plan should include a ballot with all contenders standing, those who receive less than a fifth of the possible total vote should be eliminated.

No firm proposals will be made until the full revised plan, drawn up by Sir Alec Douglas-Home and his committee, has been submitted. It will be presented to Mr Heath, as leader of the party, and he will wait for the views of the 1922 Committee, the Conservative peers, and the National Union, before taking any further action.

The 1922 Committee will probably not meet to consider the new rules until after the Christmas recess.

Raiders take chemicals used in bombs from Ulster factory

From Stewart Tandler Belfast

Security forces yesterday searched for 10 men who stole from a factory 12ewr of chemicals that are used to produce home-made bombs. The plastic sacks of potassium nitrate were taken from a glassworks at Dunganon, Co Tyrone.

On Sunday evening two armed men called at the home of one of the staff of the Tyrone Crystal Company and waited with his wife until he came home. One of the raiders stayed with the woman and the other took the employee to the factory, where eight men were waiting with the furnaceman and security guard.

With a gun at his head the employee was made to disconnect an electronic alarm connecting the chemical store with the RUC station.

Three factory employees were tied up and the chemicals were loaded into a van and a Maxi saloon car, which was later found abandoned.

The theft may mark a new series of bombings or indicate that the supply of explosives has been reduced by the security forces.

In another chemical theft on Sunday evening 18 tons of harmless acetic acid were taken with a van and trailer from a lay-by at Hillsborough, Co Down. It is believed that the thieves thought

Drive against pollution cut by rate squeeze

By Pearce Wright Science Correspondent

Some of the measures in the Control of Pollution Act, passed earlier this year, will have to be deferred because of local government finance cuts.

Rowlands, Parliament Under-Secretary of State for Wales, speaking yesterday Cardiff at a conference on use of domestic waste, said local authorities that would be able to consider more urgent needs first. New projects for recycling must be limited to those producing revenue or saving resources.

His comments came before the formation of a Waste Management Advisory Council was announced in Commons written answer by the Department of the Environment. It gave the names of the eventual 18 members, which will hold their first meeting tomorrow.

Their terms of reference to review the development waste management policies Britain for reclaiming water and recycling.

Mr Graef Searle, director of Friends of the Earth, has already indicated that the committee must not meet a promise from Government that environmental interests will be well represented when waste regulation is under review.

Members of the council include Lord Darling of Bridgwater, Sir John Hoskyns, Mrs L. J. Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution, Mr N. W. Assistant general secretary TUC, and Sir Daniel P. National Freight Corporation.

Conspiracy case retrial

A new trial was ordered yesterday for two Irishmen accused of being concerned in an IRA bomb plot after the jury at the Central Criminal Court had failed to agree on a verdict.

Michael MacLochlainn, aged 17, of the Bogside, Londonderry, and Joseph Coughlan, aged 27, of Fallowmore, Offaly, had pleaded not guilty to conspiring together and with others in July to cause explosions and endanger life and property.

Mr Justice Nield said when the jury had returned after seven hours with no verdict that the two men would be tried again at a later sitting of the court.

Plan provides for three Eire universities

Mr R. Burke, Minister for Education, disclosed in Dublin yesterday the Government's long-awaited plans for the structure of higher education in the republic.

University College, Dublin, will be detached from the federal National University of Ireland as it constituted an independent university, thus finally disposing of the controversial proposal for a merger with Trinity College, Dublin. A joint board will coordinate the activities of the two universities in Dublin. Certain subjects, mainly professional, will be allocated to one university or the other. A wide measure of agreement has been reached on this controversial part, it is likely to be the refusal of independent status to the colleges in Cork and Galway, which are to continue as constituent colleges of a truncated National University of Ireland.

A constitutional referendum may be necessary to give effect to the government proposals because of consequential changes in the composition of the Upper House of the Dáil where at present the two universities have three seats each.

Lead seen as possible violence cause

Violent teenage behaviour, including football hooliganism, might be attributed partly to lead pollution, Professor Bryce-Smith, Professor of Organic Chemistry at Reading University, said yesterday.

In a joint article in *Ecologist* magazine with Professor Tony Waldron, of the Department of Social Medicine at Birmingham University, Professor Bryce-Smith says children with a condition known as hyperactivity have a tendency to violent destructive activities. This question, he says, may be linked to lead levels.

Professor Bryce-Smith yesterday said that lead in child blood had reached those levels in some cities. Glasgow, SA and Inner London examples.

Referring to an as yet unpublished work by Dr O. David, of the Child Behavior Research Unit, New York, he said that if his research confirmed the question as to whether people should be put to prison or treated for poisoning in cases of violent behaviour.

The two professors, who worked for the lead industry base their arguments on the controversial premise that affects the brain, long known to be a clinical sign of poisoning.

Labour moderates to decide form of Commons group

By Geoffrey Smith

The decisive meeting in the formation of a moderate group of Labour MPs to balance the influence of the Tribune group within the parliamentary party will be held today.

At least a hundred MPs have been invited to discuss whether the group should register with the chief whip and have a formal list of members in the same way as the Tribune group. That is the recommendation of the steering committee which was set up after a meeting of some fifty moderates in the dying days of the old Parliament.

If the meeting decides not to register, that will be the end of the matter for the time being at least. If it decides to register, it will go on to determine its aims and objects. A draft declaration has been drawn up in general terms.

It is in essence an appeal to democratic socialism with no reference at all to membership of the EEC, a deliberate decision to make it just as easy for anti-Europeans as pro-Europeans to join.

The committee will suggest that the group should be called the Manifesto Group while leaving it open to the meeting to put forward any other proposals.

The meeting will then go on to choose officers.

There will be a deliberate attempt to form a collective leadership so that no one individual becomes the sole spokesman, but there will not be a president as well as a chairman as had earlier been intended.

It is suggested that there should be a chairman, probably two or three vice-chairmen, a secretary and a committee consisting probably of seven or eight members. No recommendations will be put forward for any of those offices by the steering committee but it is known that several names will be proposed from the floor.

Mr Mabson and possibly Mr Michael Stewart will be proposed as chairmen; Mr Urwin and Mr Wellbeloved will be among those proposed for vice-chairmen.

The favourite for secretary is Mr Horan, but the names of Mr Roper and Mr Sanderson are being suggested as well.

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Disruption in national newspapers continues

By Raymond Perman Labour Staff

Disruption of national newspaper production continued last night as the printers of the National Graphical Association and the Newspaper Publishers Association went on strike.

The action follows no regular pattern and no warning is given. Chairman of office branches open sealed instructions each morning telling them if, and how, their members are to act.

All Fleet Street newspapers were prevented from including late news in Friday's issues. Only *The Sun* was affected on Saturday. Sunday newspapers were also prevented from making late changes and similar action affected printing of *The Guardian* on Sunday night.

The NPA council met to review the dispute yesterday and is to meet again today.

Health workers accept: The Confederation of Health Service Employees yesterday accepted a 19 per cent pay offer to 70,000 of its members among hospital ancillary workers. The National Union of Public Employees has recommended a further 110,000 staff to accept the offer, making it virtually certain that the deal will be settled within the social contract.

Sanction threat: The Hospital Consultants' and Specialists' Association, which claims 5,000 members, has moved nearer to endorsing sanctions in hospitals two days before Christmas in its new contract with the Department of Health over a new consultants' contract (our Medical Reporter writes).

Executive committee decided last night to recommend a full council meeting on Saturday that members should be asked to endorse sanctions from December 23 unless the department provides written confirmation of draft agreements reached so far in the working party on the new contract.

Forty consultants at hospitals in the disarray since the departure of Mrs Castle, Secretary of State for Social Services, decided yesterday to work to contract from 9 am today.

Their action brings to 70 the number of consultants working to rule in England. Thirty are taking action at Crewe.

Mr Stonehouse named as spy by defector

Continued from page 1

He claimed that they were part of an elaborate spy ring, financed by the Czechoslovaks and also involving civil servants and a double agent living in London.

Part of the information provided by the MPs was alleged to have involved policy decisions at the upper level of the Labour Party. Mr Stonehouse's usefulness would seem to have derived in the early years from his post as Parliamentary Secretary at the Ministry of Aviation from October, 1964, to April, 1966.

In the weeks since Mr Stonehouse's disappearance senior members of the Government have shown reluctance to talk about his background. But in Whitehall circles the Frolik allegations have been common knowledge for several years.

Pressure is being put on Mr Wilson, as head of Britain's security services, to make a full statement about security checks which are alleged to have been made on Mr Stonehouse since the Frolik allegations were made.

The Foreign Office refuses to discuss any details of the intense intelligence operations, including close cooperation with the American services, which have ensued since Mr Stonehouse's disappearance. Sir Peter Ramsbotham, British Ambassador in Washington, has been keeping a close watch on the situation through the British consuls in Miami, Mr D. W. M. Pierotti.

In the late 1960s Mr Stonehouse was looked on as one of Labour's rising stars and his apparent fall from ministerial grace, which surprised many of his colleagues, followed Mr Frolik's allegations to the CIA.

After serving under Mr Wilson as Minister of Aviation, Minister of State, Technology, Postmaster-General and Minister of Posts and Telecommunications, Mr Stonehouse returned to the back benches when Labour lost the 1970 election.

Mrs Stonehouse insists, however, that he was offered the post of shadow Minister of Aviation but rejected it because

Mr Foot rebuffs TUC on job safeguard plan

By Paul Routledge Labour Editor

The TUC suffered a rare rebuff yesterday when Mr Foot, Secretary of State for Employment, declined to take powers to veto redundancies and subsidize temporarily ailing companies to save workers' jobs.

Union leaders have been asking the minister to write into his forthcoming Employment Protection Bill a provision that employers wishing to reduce their labour force should first obtain the approval of the Department of Employment. If the firms were only in temporary difficulty, money that would otherwise be paid as unemployment benefit to the redundant workers should be added to the payroll, the TUC says, so that the men could stay at work on full pay.

Mr Foot told TUC leaders that it would be unprecedented under English law for his department to decide when and to what extent companies could reduce their manpower.

He pointed out that in the consultative document on the Employment Protection Bill the Government was suggesting that

Gift from poor box to failed financier

Edward Ash, a City financier whose firm crashed because of the economic situation, stole cakes and cheese worth £2.49 at Harrods, the Kensington department store, Marlborough Street Magistrates' Court was told yesterday.

Mr St. John Hammerton, the magistrate, ordered that he should receive money from the poor box to tide him over until he receives his first unemployment pay later this week.

Mr Ash, aged 40, who lives in a £160-a-month flat at Albany Mansions, Albert Bridge Road, Battersea, admitted the theft and was granted a conditional discharge. Mr James Hillen, the prosecutor, said it was a case of genuine hardship. When his investment firm failed he

Weather forecast and recordings

NOON TODAY Pressure is shown in millibars. Fronts Warm Cold. Occluded. (Symbols are an advancing edge)

Today
Sun rises: 8.1 am
Moon rises: 10.7 am
Sun sets: 3.32 pm
Moon sets: 8.3 pm
First quarter: December 21.
Lighting up: 4.22 pm to 7.32 am.
High water: London, Brighton, 3.42 am, 6.9m (22.8ft); 4.9 pm, 7.0m (22.8ft).
Avalonmouth, 9.12 am, 12.4 am (40.6ft); 9.28 pm, 11.9m (39.1ft).
Dover: 12.43 am, 5.6m (18.4ft), 1.3 pm, 6.4m (20.9ft).
Hull, 8.16 am, 6.6m (21.8ft); 8.9 pm, 6.9m (22.7ft).
Liverpool, 1.3 am, 8.0m (26.3ft); 1.16 pm, 8.4m (27.6ft).

A deep depression will move E to the W of Scotland and a trough of low pressure may advance from the W across S Britain later in the day.

Forecasts for 6 am to midnight:
London, Midlands, E Anglia, Wales: Sunny spells, scattered showers perhaps becoming cloudy; wind W, perhaps strong at times; max temp 7°C (45°F).
SW, Central S and SE England, Channel Islands: Mainly dry, sunny intervals, but rain later; windy W moderate or fresh, becoming light; max temp 9°C (46°F).
Outlook for tomorrow and Thursday: Showers and sunny intervals in most areas; rather cold in N, temp near normal in S.
Sea passages: S North Sea; Wind W, gale or severe gale; sea very rough.
Strait of Dover, English Channel (E): Wind W, strong or gale, becoming fresh; sea very rough becoming moderate.
St. George's Channel, Irish Sea: Wind W, gale or severe gale; sea very rough.

Yesterday
London: Temp: max, 6 am pm, 12°C (54°F); min, 6 pm am, 6°C (43°F). Humidity, 68 per cent. Rain, 24hr to 0.07in. Sun, 24 hr to 6 pm. Rain, mean sec, level, 6 pm, 1 millibars, steady. 1,000 millibars = 29.53in.

30-day forecast
The Meteorological Office today issued the following for the next 30 days: Cold weather is expected to spread to all districts in the period and to dominate in most areas until the end of the year. Milder weather is likely to return gradually districts before the middle of January. Mean temp and rainfall are expected to be average in central and E but near average in N and W. Disturbances in the English Channel, North Sea and North Atlantic are expected to with about the usual frequency for this time of the year but it is likely to be less fog than

Today

Aalborg	5	8
Aarhus	4	7
Amsterdam	6	9
Antwerp	5	8
Barcelona	11	14
Belfast	9	12
Birmingham	8	11
Boston	4	7
Brighton	8	11
Bristol	8	11
Buffalo	10	13
Cardiff	6	9
Cardigan	6	9
Cardross	4	7
Cardun	4	7
Cardun	4	7
Carron	4	7
Castellon	10	13
Cebu	28	31
Copenhagen	6	9
Edinburgh	5	8
Geneva	7	10
Hamburg	5	8
Harbin	12	15
Helsinki	4	7
Hong Kong	21	24
Hull	8	11
Inverness	3	6
Jersey	7	10
London	8	11
Lyons	6	9
Manchester	8	11
Medan	26	29
Melbourne	16	19
Metz	6	9
Moscow	5	8
Munich	6	9
Nairobi	15	18
Norwich	8	11
Osaka	10	13
Oslo	4	7
Palma	18	21
Paris	7	10
Perth	6	9
Philadelphia	12	15
Phoenix	18	21
Portland	6	9
Rangoon	24	27
Reykjavik	4	7
Rome	8	11
San Francisco	12	15
Sao Paulo	18	21
Singapore	24	27
Stockholm	4	7
Sydney	16	19
Tientsin	10	13
Tokyo	10	13
Toronto	12	15
Yokohama	10	13
Zurich	7	10

HOME NEWS

Requisition urged to end system of bed and breakfast hotels for homeless

Staff Reporter reports yesterday by Shelter, housing charity, denounced increasing practice of sending homeless families to live in bed-and-breakfast hotels called for requisitioning of properties.

It said in a report that local authorities throughout Britain are likely to spend a total of 1,155 families were in bed-and-breakfast hotels on March 15, and the practice was being used for the families as well as for local authorities.

Homelessness is the common and increasing system is also used to accommodate teenage children, battered wives and refugees. The report says that such accommodation is in no way "a holiday rates".

It says several overcrowding families have to live in rooms unable to do any work and having to walk during the day. Children are kept quiet.

The report says: "There is a growing realization among those in positions that children are being kept in a totally unsatisfactory way of dealing with homelessness."

Shelter breaks news in showing how the growth in private "homeless factories" is leading to house social services and in proposing drastic measures, including a housing agency office to take over life houses, and the provision of requisitioning powers to bed and breakfast houses.

At the end of March, there were 633 families housed; a year later the

Authorities 'reached out to seize smuggler'

A man who had been extradited from Kenya on a conspiracy charge was sentenced at Middlesex Crown Court yesterday to four years' imprisonment in what was said by Mr John Rogers, for the prosecution, to be the first case of its kind under the Misuse of Drugs Act, 1971.

Daniel Mathai, aged 28, a resident of Nairobi, pleaded guilty to conspiring with others between June 30 and October 16, 1973, to import 80.8 kg of cannabis into the United Kingdom.

Mr Rogers said it was the first case where the authorities in Britain had stretched out beyond smugglers caught coming in, to seize a man who, they said, was responsible for the importation of cannabis although he did not put a foot in Britain at the time of the smuggling.

He said that Mr Mathai, who was a ramp liaison officer at Nairobi airport, stayed in London during September, 1973, with a man called Donald Estey, who was sent to prison for four years by Middlesex Crown Court in April this year for his part in the conspiracy. The prosecution case was that Mr Estey and Mr Mathai were the prime conspirators and that Mr Estey prepared for the consignment of herbal cannabis which was imported in suitcases "stuffed full".

A customs officer told the court that the street-level value of the amount involved was about £50,000.



A new Dr Who, Mr Tom Baker, formerly of the National Theatre. The BBC science-fiction series reappears on December 28.

Janie Jones's sentence of 7 years 'not day too long'

The jail sentence of seven years on Janie Jones, aged 37, the singer who ran a prostitution service from her home in Kensington was not a moment too long, Lord Widgery, the Lord Chief Justice, said in the Court of Appeal yesterday.

Miss Jones, who was not in court, was refused leave to appeal. Judge King-Hamilton, QC, who sentenced her last April at the Central Criminal Court, said then that she was the most evil woman he had ever encountered.

Lord Widgery, sitting with Lord Justice James and Mr Justice Melford Stevenson, said Miss Jones, of Campden Hill Road, Kensington, trapped girls into her service with false promises of meeting influential people in the film and television world.

When the girls found there were no prospects of meeting anyone influential and tried to return to their normal lives, they were threatened and bullied by Miss Jones. Although seven years was a long sentence there was no substance in her application for leave to appeal, Lord Widgery said.

The court was satisfied that the trial judge, when passing sentence, had not been influenced in any way by Miss Jones having pleaded not guilty to charges of blackmail. She had been acquitted on those charges.

Miss Jones had been jailed for five years concurrently on each of seven charges of controlling prostitutes and two years more on three charges of attempting to pervert the course of justice by threatening violence to prostitutes due to become witnesses against her. She had also been ordered to pay prosecution and defence costs not exceeding £16,000.

American jailed after admitting robbery attempt

From Our Correspondent York

A former American marine who served in Vietnam was jailed for three years and recommended for deportation after pleading guilty at York Crown Court yesterday to attempting to rob the Halifax Building Society's branch office at Snaith, near Selby.

Richard Hatchell, aged 26, from South Carolina, admitted brandishing a replica of an automatic pistol and ordering a young female assistant to lie on the floor. He fled empty-handed when the chief clerk appeared.

Miss Louise Godfrey, for the prosecution, said the assistant had been so frightened that she hid for a quarter of an hour before she could be persuaded to come out.

Navy officer was drunk at embassy reception

Lieutenant Adrian McCurry, aged 26, of the minehunter Maxton, was sentenced at a court martial at HMS Cochrane, Rosyth, yesterday, to be dismissed his ship and to lose six months' seniority.

He admitted bringing discredit on the Royal Navy by being drunk at a British Embassy reception in Cairo.

A prosecution statement said the reception, attended by ambassadors and members of the churches throughout Africa, marked the end of the international operation Rheostat to clear the Suez Canal of mines and explosives.

Lieutenant McCurry was seen to be swaying and holding the arm of Rear-Admiral Ashraf Raffat, the Egyptian Chief of Naval Operations. When two officers tried to remove him from the reception, he swore profusely for five minutes.

The defending officer said that for seven months Lieutenant McCurry had worked a 12-hour day as the Maxton's only minehunting officer. He had been closed up in the operations room, where the temperature was often above 100°F. He even had his meals in the operations room.

He was worried about three sectarian murders near his parents' home in Northern Ireland. He also developed a stomach ulcer. All that sapped his strength.

He left a United States Navy reception early and was obliged to attend the ambassador's reception the next evening.

Because of the sudden relaxation of pressure he had an end-of-term feeling, the defending officer continued. But he also went with an empty stomach, and a small quantity of gin had an unusual effect.

In brief

Jail break-out fails
After a break-out attempt at Hull top-security prison had been discovered during the previous night an investigation began yesterday into how prisoners obtained cutting tools, which were found in a recently completed cell-block.

There are about 250 high-risk prisoners in the jail; none of them escaped.

Husband freed
Walter Davies, aged 60, retired garage manager, of Fulmouth Avenue, Higham Park, London, who was sentenced at the Central Criminal Court on September 16 to two years' jail for the "mercy killing" of his wife, was freed by the Court of Appeal yesterday.

Rebel teacher elected
Mr Jack Malloch, an Aberdeen mathematics teacher who fought a legal battle for several years over his refusal to register with the General Teaching Council for Scotland, has been elected to the new council by his fellow-teachers, which will take office in February.

£1m for children
Despite the economic crisis, which has cut the size of donations, the Variety Club of Great Britain has been able to raise £1m this year for underprivileged children.

Head dismissed from £5,600 job
Mr Raymond Germain, aged 47, £5,600-a-year head of the 1,500-pupil Alun School, Mold, North Wales, for the past two years, was dismissed after a meeting of Clwyd County Council school's subcommittee yesterday.

A statement after the meeting said an inquiry had been held after an adverse report by Mr John Davies, county director of education, into Mr Germain's conduct. A member of the school staff said: "He clashed head on with administrators because of his views on education."

an planned disguises to bank, court told

Our Correspondent

William Tongue, aged 40, a technical worker, wearing a black coat and a hat which could change his appearance escaping with £10,000 from a bank, Huddersfield, was told yesterday.

Granville Rooley, for the prosecution, alleged that Mr Tongue, of Durham Road, Bradford, collected £10,000 in cash agreeing to blow up the bank with a bomb.

Mr Tongue had said that he could make his identification difficult by tying back one finger to make it look like he had lost part of it.

Tongue was charged with robbing Mr Ernest Hall, an assistant manager at the National Westminster bank in John William Street, Huddersfield, of £10,000; with threatening to damage the bank; and with carrying an imitation firearm while committing a robbery. He was remanded in custody.

Mr Rooley said Mr Tongue produced what appeared to be a bomb during an interview with Mr Hall and threatened to explode it unless he was given £10,000 in old notes. A clerk who was sent for the money became suspicious and called the police. Mr Tongue was arrested as he left the bank.

Mr Rooley said that the parcel Mr Tongue had made up contained a battery, a clock mechanism and sticks of what appeared to be explosives. They were later found to be candles, but everything was wired up.

Mr Michael Foot fined £40 for careless driving

From Our Correspondent Aylesbury

Mr Michael Foot, Secretary of State for Employment, was told to blame for a three-car collision the night he reversed from a public house forecourt into a main road, magistrates at Brill, Buckinghamshire, were told yesterday.

He was fined £40 after pleading guilty to careless driving on the A41 Bicester road at Kingswood, Buckinghamshire, on October 11. He did not appear in court.

Police Sergeant Frederick Tildesley, for the prosecution, said that the driver of a passing car had to brake sharply to avoid hitting Mr Foot's vehicle, and was struck in the rear by a following car, which was struck in turn by the car behind that. No one was injured.

Mr Richard Cole, for the defence of Mr Foot, said that he had checked to make sure the road was clear and reversed only partly on to the highway. There was no clear white line to indicate the boundary between the car park and the road, and it was dark at the time.

Eight accused of public house murder

Eight men were remanded in custody for seven days at Guildford Magistrates' Court yesterday, charged with murder in the attacks on public houses at Woolwich and Guildford.

Michael Hill, aged 20, and Patrick Joseph Armstrong, aged 24, were accused with the murder of Caroline Duffin, aged 18, WRAC recruit, Guildford, and with the murder of Gunner Richard Dunne, aged 42, at Woolwich.

Other people charged with murder of Miss Slater were remanded in custody for seven days. They were: Mrs Rita McGuire, aged 39; Margaret Richardson,

Children flock to borrow from toy library

A toy library, serving the Whitehawk suburb of Brighton, has just celebrated its first anniversary. It has about 1,200 members aged between 18 months and 19 years, and is a three-year pilot project financed by the Rowntree Trust and the Department of Health and Social Security.

Mr John Lee, president of the National Association of Toy Libraries and founder of the Whitehawk scheme, said that children borrowed toys for a week, but some visited the library each day.

"We know there are toy libraries for particular groups of children, but we believe that ours is the only one attached to a children's book library and is open at the same times as the book section."

The library has about a thousand toys and has its own workshops attached where old age pensioners undertake any repairs.

Some of the toys are given by the manufacturers, and others by children. The service is free and the association hopes that similar libraries will be started soon.

Sea to stop 'disguised' water content in food

Our Correspondent

Government action is needed to protect the public from the disguised addition of water to foodstuffs, Mr David Pugh, Shropshire's chief food and measures officer, said yesterday.

In a report to the county's protection committee he said that the Association of County Councils should press current departments for immediate inquiry about moist water in food.

Shops should be sought by manufacturers to disguise the presence of artificially added water.

Mr Roberts said the flesh content of intensively reared poultry could contain as much as a fifth of added water, and there is nothing in the law of the land to prevent this practice. One of three methods of artificially increasing weight, by injecting polyphosphate solution, added between 5 and 7 per cent to the weight of a dressed bird in a few seconds, he said.

Products on the market designed to resemble "soft" margarine could contain up to half water and there were reports of a 36 to 45 per cent moisture content in loaves sold in the county.

Court dash fails

Three accused were recaptured yesterday after making a dash for freedom from Northampton Magistrates' Court, where they had been remanded in custody for a week on theft charges.

Women's 3-year wait

Women undergraduates are to be admitted to Trinity Hall, Cambridge, "not earlier than October, 1977".

Minister urged to call press freedom talks

Mr Foot, Secretary of State for Employment, has been asked to invite the National Union of Journalists and the Institute of Journalists to an urgent conference on press freedom and a closed shop.

The NUJ has already rejected a conference with the Institute after some NUJ members had "black"ed a minute copy the union's dispute over pro-rial members' pay. The call a conference came yesterday in a letter to Mr Foot from W. M. Young, president of Newspaper Society.

He asked that invitations should be sent before the Royal Assent is given to the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Amendment) Bill, which would permit closed shops.

Mr Young suggested that the conference could be chaired by Mr Foot, or Lord Feather, the former TUC general secretary, Lord Devlin, Lord Pearce, Lord Annan, Lord Denning, Lord Gardner, or Mr F. Symons, deputy chairman of the Printing and Publishing Industry Training Board.

As well as the union and institute, invitations should go to the Newspaper Society, the Guild of Newspaper Editors, and "other organizations concerned about safeguards for press freedom", Mr Young said.

He added that at such a conference it would be possible to discuss in more detail Mr Foot's statement in the Commons that the Bill "will now make specific provision to enable a membership agreement to specify unions which are signatory to the agreement, to which certain types of workers can belong".

CHRISTMAS SHOULD BE SPENT AT HOME



IF YOU'VE GOT ONE.

This Christmas, thousands of families won't spend Christmas at home. They don't have homes. They will spend the holiday in temporary accommodation.

Some at least will be together in hostels. Others will be split up. Yet more will be in abandoned houses, caravans, even beach huts.

Homelessness is increasing. A thousand more families, most with children, face a homeless Christmas this year. Somehow they retain their togetherness and dignity. But sadly, many of them are helpless in the face of circumstances. They can do little to help themselves.

SHELTER can help, if you will.

SHELTER, National Campaign for the Homeless.

86 Strand, London, WC2R 0EQ.

I enclose £ _____ to help SHELTER to help the homeless.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

Please tick if you require a receipt

Thank you for your contribution

HOME NEWS

Dependence on foreign doctors increasing, health chief reports

By John Roper Medical Reporter More doctors from abroad will have to be employed in the health services if the increased annual demand remains at the 3 per cent level of the past few years...

Dr Yellowlees' comment that further study was urgently needed is likely to annoy doctors' leaders. They will see that part of the report dealing with overseas-born doctors as official recognition of much of what they have been claiming as part of the difficulties of the Health Service for some time.

Technician denies making device to cause damage

From Our Correspondent Oxford A medical physics technician said yesterday that he had had no idea that timing mechanisms he had made for someone else were to be used to cause damage by explosions in Oxford.

Earlier, a former Home Office explosives expert told the court that he thought it most unlikely that the device used in the explosions at Blackfriars Dominican Priory, Ruskin College and the former Irish Club could have killed anyone.

Man describes hiding wife's body in freezer

A man told a Central Criminal Court hearing yesterday that after a struggle with his wife during which he killed her he put her body in the deep freeze so that their children would not find it.

George Medal for fireman who risked life

By a Staff Reporter A fireman who risked his life to save three people from a fire in a Devon guest-house has been awarded the George Medal, it is announced today.

PCs John Young, of the Metropolitan Police, John Whitbread, an inspector in the South Australian Police, Mr William Hamill, a messenger in Northern Ireland, and PCs William Mc'Brien, Ernest Madin, Noel McCabe, and Laurence Foster, all of the Royal Ulster Constabulary, for gallantry in Northern Ireland.

1 per cent home loans for miners and steelworkers

The cheapest home loans in Britain are on offer to Britain's coalminers and steelworkers. About £2m will be earmarked next year at an interest rate of only 1 per cent by the EEC Commission.

Department of Industry and Department of Environment officials attended the meeting, with representatives from the North-east coal and steel industries.

Lord Strathcona to sell Scottish estate

Lord Strathcona and Mount Royal has decided to sell his family seat in Scotland, his Scottish solicitors announced yesterday. Lord and Lady Strathcona, who own about 13,000 acres and includes the islands of Colonsay and Oronsay off the coast of Argyll, has been in the family for four generations.

Dogs help to end bakery sit-in

Security men with five Alsatian dogs on leads yesterday ejected 17 men who had barricaded themselves in with flour bags at the bakery of Thomas Scott and Sons at Netherton, Merseyside.

Rival leftist student groups in Tokyo clash

Tokyo, Dec 16.—Left-wing student extremists cut telephone lines to a district of Tokyo, then attacked a rival Marxist group.

Patient was not told of drug-drink danger

A doctor's failure to tell a patient about the dangers of drinking while taking drugs turned a respectable family man into a sex attacker a judge at the Central Criminal Court said yesterday.

But, the judge said, even so Mr Pletziado must have known he had no right to molest the girls. He would pass a sentence of nine months' imprisonment, concurrent, on each charge.

Court reduces sentence on practical joker

Ronald Travers, jailed for making a booby-trap bomb, won a reduction in his prison sentence yesterday from seven years to four years.

Foreign Office minister to visit Philippines

Lord Corony-Roberts, Under-Secretary at the Foreign Office responsible for Far Eastern affairs, is to visit Hongkong and the Philippines next month.



Children in St Bartholomew's Hospital greeting Father Christmas and his cartful of presents

Dr Luns disquieted by British defence cuts

By George Clark Political Correspondent Dr Joseph Luns, secretary-general of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, said yesterday that he was trying to maintain a worldwide balance of power between the East and West, not merely a local balance of forces across what is called the iron curtain.

Changes in the balance of forces outside the Nato area might hold even greater dangers for the peace of the world and the security of Nato. That situation had not been proved by the decision of the United Kingdom Government to withdraw forces progressively from those other areas.

Referring to his disquiet about cuts in other areas, Dr Luns said that the weakening of defence in one region by one country had implications for the alliance as a whole.

WEST EUROPE

M Chaban-Delmas to challenge M Chirac over party leadership

From Richard Wigg Paris, Dec 16 M Jacques Chaban-Delmas, the former Prime Minister and Gaullist presidential candidate last May, today made clear that he would seek to challenge M Jacques Chirac over his seizure of the post of party secretary general while remaining Prime Minister.

a Gaullist in the presidency. He has pushed a reform of the party's internal organs, designed both to give an increased democratic influence to the lower ranks and to cultivate a potential electorate outside the Gaullists.

Communist dilemma over motion of censure

From Charles Hargrove Paris, Dec 16 The motion of censure by the left which the National Assembly will begin debating tomorrow will not reap more than some 180 votes out of the 500 members of the Assembly.

E German death case before W Berlin court

From Our Correspondent Berlin, Dec 16 The trial of Fraulein Ingrid Brückmann, a refugee who is alleged to have confessed to killing her father in East Germany, opened in West Berlin today.

Baader-Meinhof suspects urged to end hunger strike

From Dan van der Vat Bonn, Dec 16 Dr Gustav Heinemann, the former President of West Germany, has intervened in an attempt to persuade alleged members of the Baader-Meinhof group of terrorists to abandon their hunger strike, it is disclosed today.

test, the others would be in suit. He told the West German news agency DPA today that he had written the letter on support of the efforts of a group to bring an end to the strike.

Russians return rare bird after shooting

Helsinki, Dec 16.—A rare golden eagle, shot down over Leningrad, was handed to the Finnish consulate after it was found to be ringed. An official brought it back for treatment and it will be returned to Lapland.—Reuter.

Unemployment spectre at social affairs conference

From Our Own Correspondent Brussels, Dec 16 Regular EEC consultations between employers and trade unions from the industries badly hit by the economic crisis will make a vital contribution in working out remedial action, Dr Patrick Hillery, the European Commissioner for social affairs, said today.

Chancellor leads discussion on city's future

From Our Correspondent Berlin, Dec 16 A high-level conference held in West Berlin today to discuss long-term plans for the city's economic and social development.

Correction

Dr Otto von Hasburg lives in Bavaria, not Switzerland as stated on December 10. He was elected to the German Bundestag in 1956, on giving up his titles and his claim to the throne, so it is wrong to describe him as a "prince in waiting".

Dr Soares reelected party chief

From Jose Sbercliff Lisbon, Dec 16 Dr Mario Soares, the Portuguese Foreign Minister, has been reelected secretary-general of the Socialist Party on the last day of the party congress in Lisbon.

The discussions, as well as the election of officers, showed that although it presents a united front to the world, it is a party of many currents.

to a constituent assembly. activities of all political parties and their leaders will increase. There does not, however, seem to be any possibility of a diminishing in view of Portugal's many international problems.

Stones hurled at motorist

A motorist hit by a stone discharged from a catapult was said yesterday to be likely to lose the sight of an eye. The man, aged 39, of Letchworth, Hertfordshire, stopped to adjust his radio near Stevenage when three stones were hurled at him.

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OVERSEAS

Vorster plan agreed at Lusaka will probably give Rhodesia majority rule after five years

From Michael Knipe Salisbury, Dec 16 The basis of the proposed Rhodesian constitutional conference agreed upon at Lusaka that majority rule will be reached after the life of one post-conference Parliament. Meanwhile, there would be an interim Parliament elected to give the vote to all Rhodesians with seven years' primary education and one year's secondary education. This is the substance of the proposal put forward by Mr Vorster, the South African Prime Minister, agreed on by President Kaunda of Zambia, and eventually and reluctantly accepted by Rhodesia's black and white leaders, according to unconfirmed sources here. It indicates a startling display of realism on the part of the South African Prime Minister recognizing the inevitability of majority rule in Rhodesia in what in all probability will be a five-year period. Mr Vorster persuaded Mr Smith, the Rhodesian Prime Minister that this was the best realistic negotiating position from which he could start, while President Kaunda exerted similar influence over the leaders of the divided African nationalist movements. However, the influence of the South African and Zambian leaders is inevitably weakened now that the two Rhodesian sides are wrestling the details of the situation.

At present there are some 7,000 Africans eligible to vote, many of whom will be among the 56,000 who reached first-year secondary school, so it might be that Africans would not reach parity with Europeans in the first post-conference election. There are clearly grounds for considerable manoeuvring at the proposed constitutional conference. The major issue will be electoral representation. At present the Rhodesian Parliament has 66 seats, 50 of which are elected by white voters and 16 by Africans. The Africans are insistent on a common vote. The expectations of my sources are that the Parliament might be enlarged up to 100 seats. The conference will have to resolve the delicate issue of delimitation. Mr Smith's Government will be determined that whites should retain control for as long as possible of a majority of seats, while the Africans will be equally determined that they should win immediate majority control. It is safe to assume that the vast majority of Africans with the necessary educational qualifications to vote for the interim Parliament are living in Salisbury and, to a lesser extent,

in the other urban areas. The rural constituencies which are likely to incorporate large tracts of the African tribal trust lands where few Africans will be eligible to vote, will remain dominated by whites. The ruling Rhodesian Front party already overwhelms its more liberal opponents by its commanding strength in rural areas. Thus the delimitation of new electoral constituencies will be a vital matter at the conference, which is expected to be staged early in the new year. There will also be an intensive search by both sides for safeguards. The Africans will need some reassurance that the rapid process to majority rule will not be sabotaged, while whites will require safeguards for their minority rights, including some way to ensure that there will be no retroactive changes in the agreed constitution. An interim Parliament, with an electorate restricted to those with seven years' primary and one year's secondary education, would enable Mr Smith to argue to his supporters that he had "maintained civilized standards", as he has promised. It is perhaps significant that in an interview broadcast here yesterday he said he believed in majority rule on the basis of qualified franchise, but not in the "counting of heads, like the counting of sheep". Africans are interpreting these words as a welcome change of stance by the Prime Minister. In the coming weeks Mr Smith is likely to take further cautious steps to prepare white Rhodesians for the prospect of majority rule. The question of when Rhodesia's independence might be declared legal, should the constitutional conference prove successful, remains confused. The all-important matter will be the lifting of sanctions, and it might be that this could be investigated during the life of the proposed interim Parliament.

Mr Todd still waiting for order to restriction

Salisbury, Dec 16.—A restriction order on Mr G. Todd, former Rhodesian Prime Minister, has not been lifted in the light of Mr Smith's pledge to release all detainees and restrict Mr Todd's movements. Mrs Todd said her husband had been asked to clarify his position in the light of Mr Smith's announcement last Wednesday. "The police told us that he had no instructions from the Government," Mrs Todd said, "they said they would let us know the minute they heard, so far we have heard nothing." Mr Todd was restricted to farm in the Shabani area in 1972, after the Government agreed that he was persuading Africans to reject the 1971 pro-Anglo-Rhodesian settlement. His daughter, Judith, is also restricted at the same time, but later was allowed to visit the country. Mr and Mrs Todd returned on a two-week holiday to the UK Africa late last month and the authorities had permitted them to leave the country on "humanitarian grounds". Mrs Todd said today that she objected to Mr Todd's recent assertion that all restrictions and security reasons and not political ones.

UN Assembly urges sanctions on S Africa

New York, Dec 16.—The United Nations General Assembly today approved a series of resolutions demanding sanctions against South Africa for its apartheid policies. The first resolution asked the Security Council to consider taking action to stop the supply of arms, ammunition, military vehicles, spare parts thereof and any other military equipment whatsoever to South Africa, as well as any military cooperation with the country. The second resolution called on South Africa to allow public dissent on apartheid policies and to grant "unconditional amnesty to all persons imprisoned or restricted for their opposition to apartheid". The third resolution authorized the United Nations special committee on apartheid to increase aid to South African liberation movements and to mount international anti-apartheid campaigns. One of the resolutions would be to end "collaboration by banks, national and transnational companies with the South African regime and companies registered in South Africa". Another would ask governments to end emigration of their nationals to South Africa, as well as end "all cultural, educational, scientific, sporting and other contacts with the country". Another resolution asked the United Nations Secretary-General to "take steps, as appropriate, to deny all facilities to, and cooperation with, companies and organizations which assist the South African regime or South African companies with apartheid policies or other means". —Reuter.

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INDIAN COFFEE Yes! Indian coffee is favoured because of its aroma and quality. Indian coffee is ideal for use either straight or in blends. COFFEE BOARD Bangalore, India



Jungle ordeal: Herbert Zehnder, aged 11 (left) and his brother Carlos, aged eight, are embraced by their father in La Merced, Peru, at the end of a week's journey through the jungle after an air crash. With seven other children—brothers and cousins—they were flying on December 7 to San Juan for Christmas with their 24-year-old cousin Oscar as pilot. When the aircraft crashed, one six-year-old boy died instantly and another, aged 14, died soon afterwards. Gladys Zehnder, 15, the oldest of the children, led the party through the jungle, she and Oscar took turns to carry their wounded sister Ketty, aged 10, but she died two hours before they were all rescued by a peasant boatman on the Palcazu river. On the march to the river, using a single machete to hack through the vegetation, they ate biscuits, chocolate and fruit and the boys played a marimba to keep wild animals away. After two days' walking, they arrived back at the plane and had to start again, bitten by mosquitoes and resting every hour.

Reformist government in Peru turns tough

From Our Correspondent Lima, Dec 16 Peru's military government for long has had the reputation of being one of the most peaceful in Latin America. There are now signs that it is becoming tough. Four members of the Lima Bar Association have been sentenced to a year's imprisonment for "injuring the reputation of the Government" and for "spreading irreparable prejudices about the national economy". They had published a report which questioned the constitutionality of contracts signed earlier this year with Japanese companies for a \$330m (£143m) loan to finance the North Trans-Andean Oil Pipeline. The contracts were also discussed by last magazine—the Peruvian Times, an English-language weekly, and two conservative Spanish publications, Oiga and Opinion Libre. All three were promptly closed for their speculation. One lawyer said: "It is inherent in this kind of government to react toughly to this kind of questioning. It no longer matters whether you are on the right or the left. If you criticize the Government now you are the conditioned for being a counter-revolutionary." There has never been institutionalized repression in Peru, as there is in Brazil, Uruguay, or Chile since September, 1973, but the Peruvian administration has been a hard-line one since it took power in October, 1968, after ousting the civilian President, Dr Fernando Belaunde Terry, from the Palace. At the time it looked like another typical right-wing Latin American coup. Because of its economic policies and friendship with Russia and Cuba, the regime was soon described as left wing. The civilian right saw its power eroded by extensive agrarian reform, nationalization and company ownership in industry. The last straw for this group was the nationalization of the country's main newspapers in July. It was deprived of an outlet to express its opposition, and the day marked a change for the regime. Since then there has been a

'Times' man speaks of terrorism in Argentina

Continued from page 1 anti-subversion law, which carries with it jail sentences for journalists of up to five years for naming the two extremist guerrilla groups, the Marxist ERP and the AAA, who are terrorizing the lives of ordinary people. But foreign journalists are supposedly free to report on the political situation. However, they, too, are living under the open intimidation of the AAA. It is reported to be a para-police organization and has been responsible for the murder of many socialist figures and a small exodus of foreign journalists. The correspondent of Le Monde was threatened directly by the AAA six weeks ago and has since left Argentina. Another British freelance journalist also fled after receiving a message through friends of a possible death threat. Bolivian journalists working for foreign newspapers in Argentina were both threatened and they, too, have left the country. The Argentine Government was not responsible for what happened to me or for the other acts of intimidation carried out by the AAA. It is up to them, however, to control the movement of these somewhat ignorant and ideologically naive paid assassins. There will be no press freedom in Argentina and no foreign journalists will be able to report objectively so long as this type of intimidation goes on under the Government's nose. The many posters spread by Buenos Aires by the fighting Peronist magazine Caudillo stating that another year of castigating Marxists, liberals, socialists and infiltrators is over does little to bring credit to a government for which most journalists have deep sympathy in the hope that it represented, and would continue to represent, a democracy.

Mr Rabin says Cairo upsetting peace hopes

From Moshe Brilliant Jerusalem, Dec 16 Mr Rabin, the Prime Minister, said tonight that Egypt's call this weekend for limits on Jewish immigration to Israel could disturb the prospects of a Middle East peace. Addressing some 300 poets, essayists and novelists at the thirty-ninth PEN congress in Jerusalem, he berated the peace terms put forward by Mr Ismail Fahmy, the Egyptian Foreign Minister. "Nothing can possibly dissuade Israel from its historic human mission of national ingathering," he declared. "For this Israel was reborn. It is the lifeblood of our homes and our hearts. It is what Israel is all about." Mr Rabin said that the opening of the convention in Jerusalem at this time was particularly significant. He recalled the decision in Paris by the conference of Unesco to withdraw assistance from Israel and bar her from regional bodies. He told the writers: "An Orwellian thought comes to mind. He spoke of a non-person. We are told we are a grotesque of what happened at Unesco when Israel's representation was barred and silenced." Mr Saul Bellow, the American novelist, was among the participants. At a press conference in Jerusalem earlier today he attacked the Unesco decision, which he described as "extremely stupid, ignorant, partisan, unworthy of a world cultural organization which is supposed to transcend national interests." In a letter to Mr Jean Darcaute, secretary general of the International Theatre Institute (an organ of Unesco), Mr Wesker describes the resolutions as "just the kind of irresponsible committee-politicking which I was worried would attend a summit meeting which I have neither the wit to combat nor the patience to bear." Peace with Jordan: The central council of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) has decided to end all campaigns against Jordan, and to attend a summit meeting with here, however, the procedural rules of Unesco provide for the expulsion of a country which announces that it does not intend to pay its membership dues, though no action is usually

Iran accused by Iraq of shooting down aircraft

From Paul Martin Beirut, Dec 16 The danger of the Kurdish war developing into a wider conflict was emphasized today when Iraq accused Iran of shooting down two of its fighter-bombers. The Iraqis said the incident, which occurred astride the border that separates the two Persian Gulf rivals, was a "dangerous provocation and intervention". Iran has given the Kurdish rebels their main material and moral support in the fight against the Baathist regime in Baghdad. Iranian arms have been ferried across the mountainous border into Kurdistan to support the rebellion. Indeed, the Iraqis have made no secret of their encouragement for the Kurds. According to Baghdad radio, the two Iraq aircraft were brought down by Iranian ground-to-air missiles in the Kurdish populated region of north Iraq. It said the aircraft were flying at a high altitude when they were brought down while in Iraq's airspace. This is the first incident of its kind since the latest Kurdish war broke out. The Iraqis have been waging a relentless war from the air against Kurdish positions, coming increasingly close to the border with Iran. There have been reports of artillery clashes between Iraq and Iranian troops across the border, but this is the first involving air activity. The two countries have been at loggerheads for some years on ideological grounds. The last time they came face to face militarily was in 1969 over the question of navigational rights in the Shatt al Arab waterway, which they share at the extreme north of the Persian Gulf. This has been followed by many border clashes.

Text of communiqué after Martinique summit

Fort de France, Martinique, Dec 16.—This is the text of the communiqué issued after the conference between President Ford and President Giscard d'Estaing. The President of the United States, Gerald R. Ford, and the President of the French Republic, Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, met in Martinique December 14-16, 1974, to discuss current issues of mutual concern. As they were joined in their discussions by the Secretary of State and Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs, Henry Kissinger, and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Jean Sauvagnargues, and by Secretary of the Treasury, William Simon, and the Minister of Finance, Jean-Pierre Fourcade. The Ministers also held complementary side talks. The meeting took place in an atmosphere of cordiality and mutual confidence. President Ford and President Giscard d'Estaing welcomed the opportunity to conduct detailed substantive discussions on the whole range of subjects of mutual concern. As traditional friends and allies, the two nations share common values and goals and the two Presidents pressed their determination to cooperate on this basis in efforts to solve common problems. They reviewed the international situation in the economic, financial and monetary fields. The two Presidents agreed that the Governments of the United States and of the European Community, in the name of which the French President spoke on this subject, must adopt consistent economic policies in order to be effective in avoiding inflationary pressures and in promoting growth. They agreed on the importance of avoiding measures of a protectionist nature. And they decided to take the initiative in calling additional inter-governmental meetings should they prove necessary for achievement of the desired consistency of basic economic policies among industrial nations.

Advertisement for Western Trust & Savings Ltd. featuring the text: 'You can give your child... or grandchild... a real nest egg this Christmas... without taxing yourself Here's how'. It includes details about deposit certificates, interest rates, and contact information for the company's various branches.

OVERSEAS



A group released from detention under military law in the Philippines take an oath of allegiance to the Government. President Marcos has ordered the release of more than 1,000 prisoners.

New Mao quotation foreshadows end of Cultural Revolution era

From David Bonavia Peking, Dec 16 Chairman Mao Tse-tung has declared that it is time for China to "settle down" after the Cultural Revolution which was initiated some eight years ago, usually reliable sources say, in public places outside Peking, calling for unity in the party and the armed forces. A Chinese official is reported to have confirmed the authenticity of the quotation.

Japanese businessmen this year. The Cultural Revolution got under way in 1966 and was wound down gradually after it had run its course for a year or two. However it has never been officially declared to have ended.

The leadership's doctrine confirmed at the tenth party congress last year, has emphasized that similar upheavals may be necessary every eight years or so. The campaign against Confucius and Marshal Lin has been represented as only the latest stage in a continuing programme of reform.

Newspapers accused in Morosi affair

From Our Correspondent Melbourne, Dec 16 Members of the federal executive of the Australian Labour Party, who have just concluded a three-day meeting in Canberra, are incensed at the way in which they allege the Australian press has handled the so-called Morosi affair.

The text, as reported, is as follows: "The Cultural Revolution has been going on for eight years. It is time to settle down. The entire party and Army should unite."

For one thing China seems to be seeking a more central position in its dispute with Russia and America, after a period of some three years during which it has tended to lean strongly towards the latter.

It is reliably reported that Mr Peng Chung has been appointed first party secretary for the province of Kiangsu, the centre of the important Nanking military region.

Executive members of the Labour Party were also critical of what they claimed were suggestive press stories about Mrs Joan Taggart, a friend of Mr Rex Connor, the Minister for Minerals and Energy, taking up a job with the newly created National Pipe Authority, which is under Mr Connor's ministerial control.

Thai mission leaves for trade talks with China

From Our Correspondent Bangkok, Dec 16 A 10-man trade delegation has left Bangkok on the first leg of a journey to Peking and Pyongyang, the capital of North Korea. The Thai mission is the most senior yet to visit either country.

Mr Anand said that Thailand would welcome a Chinese permanent mission to the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, which has its headquarters in Bangkok, and that he would repeat the offer in Peking.

Zaire leader pays second visit to Peking

From Our Own Correspondent Peking, Dec 16 President Mobutu of Zaire arrived in Peking today in a DC10 jet, believed to be the biggest aircraft ever to land in China. Paying his second state visit to Peking in two years, he travelled from North Korea with a large entourage.

Hongkong officer dismissed

Hongkong, Dec 16.—A senior anti-corruption commission who was fined \$181,000 (£900) on Friday for corruptly accepting a loan, has been dismissed, a spokesman for the commission said today.

Guyana to set up property register for MPs

From Our Correspondent Georgetown, Dec 16 Mr Forbes Burnham, the Prime Minister, told a mass meeting last night of a new code of conduct for the leadership of the ruling People's National Congress. Under this party leaders would be forbidden to accept gifts or from being landlords.

Violence marks anniversary of Bangladesh

Dacca, Dec 16.—Bangladesh today celebrated the third anniversary of its independence amid a wave of bombings, armed raids and the deliberate derailment of a train which killed at least 20 people.

South Vietnam outpost falls to communists

Saigon, Dec 16.—Communist forces have seized a Government outpost defended by some 200 militiamen, 70 miles north-east of Saigon, the South Vietnam command said today.

Frontier alert

Bangkok, Dec 16.—All border patrol units along the Thai-Cambodian frontier have been alerted after a hundred Cambodian soldiers entered Thai territory and abducted two villagers.—Reuter.

Bali tiger feared to be extinct

Morges, Switzerland, Dec 16.—The Bali tiger, one of the smallest of the eight sub-species of tiger, is feared to be extinct, the World Wildlife Fund said today.—Reuter.

PROPERTY also on page 26

PROPERTY ABROAD avoriz Haute Savoie, France Apartments for sale in this exciting new ski resort, from 600,000 francs. Only 60 kms from Geneva. A large variety of winter and summer activities. Further details from: KNIGHT FRANK & RUTLEY

COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL PROPERTIES BEAUCHAMP PLACE First Floor Office Suite Light space of office accom. comprising front Reception Room (15ft. x 11ft.), and connecting Rear Office (11ft. x 8ft.). 2 1/2 year lease remaining. Complete fixtures for sale if required. Costa about £2,500 per annum inclusive. Please phone 01-694 2282.

NEW PENTHOUSE SUITE WOODFORD GREEN Magnificent views London and Essex countryside. 4 bedrooms of study, 3 bathrooms, 1 en suite, 10ft. x 11ft. living room, fitted kitchen, 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, 1 en suite, 10ft. x 11ft. living room, 10ft. x 11ft. dining room, large hall, parquet flooring throughout. Price to include all luxury unused furnishings and fittings. 270,000 o.n.o. Phone 01-504 3510

BARGAIN AT £32,000 A magnificent newly modernized 3 bedroom house with double garage. Beautifully situated in Kensington best part. 2 spacious bedrooms, bathroom, kitchen, dining room, living room and full fitted kitchen. Price to include all luxury unused furnishings and fittings. 01-723 9816

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PROPERTY WANTED PREMISES with educational permission for use as a day care centre. London area. Tel. 01-235 9984

LANDLORDS. Rent a property? Let our experts advise you. BOYD & CO. have applicants urgently seeking tenants for properties in London. 581 6833, 525 6274

UNFURNISHED FLATS urgently required for waiting applicants willing to purchase your features and fittings. Call 01-235 9984

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HAMPSTEAD Attractive 2nd floor flat enjoying views of London. Call 01-794 5908

Secretarial and General Appointments also on page 27

SECRETARIAL FALL IN FOR FASHION! Smart Secretary P.A. post at top fashion company for clever working in close liaison with the M.D. on Admin., customer and supplier contacts. Highly responsible role calling for considerable self-motivation. To apply, send cv with a very recent photo, to Mrs. CHALLONER, 33 Grosvenor Rd., E.C.1. 251 0126.

SECRETARY SHORTHAND+AUDIO £2,500 + L.V.'s Urgently required to work for a charming banker in convenient location. High salary and excellent benefits. Apply to: CLAYTON AGENCY, 31 33 High Holborn, W.C.2.

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED Enthusiastic Director in medium sized Advertising Agency West End, is looking for a superb Secretary. A Good secretarial speeds to be used only part of the time. Advertising experience not essential. Age 20-30. Salary up to £2,500. Mrs. Carter, 101, 7/24 4834

ART FOR ARTS SAKE! Drama Officer of top National Artists' organization needs intelligent young secretary interested in drama and theatre and able to organize committee work and handle office correspondence. Salary up to £2,500. Mrs. Carter, 101, 7/24 4834

CHEERFUL GIRL who sounds happy on the telephone and can audio type needed as Receptionist/typist with small legal firm in Kensington. 4 weeks full time. £2,000 p.a. plus L.V.'s. Ring Mr. Stranack or Mr. Saunders, 581 0776.

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A JOB WITH HUMAN INTEREST. Up to approx. £53 a week as Personal Secretary to Hammersmith Council's newly-appointed Personnel Manager. Write or phone for application form and further details: Personnel Office, London Borough of Hammersmith, 7/9 Hammersmith Broadway, W6 8AB. 01-741 1880/3. Quoting Reference D0ES P.12. Closing date 3rd January 1975.

LONDON FLATS SLOANE SQUARE We are able to offer a selection of flats within an attractive Victorian building. Call 01-235 9984

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CINEMAS

ORION MARBLE ARCH (725 2011) Peter Moore, Susanah York, Gail... THE NEW NIGHTMARE (183) THE NEW NIGHTMARE (183) THE NEW NIGHTMARE (183)

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DRIAN GALLERY 5-7 Portchester Place, London, W.1. 14th Dec. 11th Jan. 1975

WILLIAM WESTON GALLERY 35 Abchurch Lane, London, E.C.4. 14th Dec. 11th Jan. 1975

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RICHARD GREEN GALLERY 36 Old Bond Street, W.1. 14th Dec. 11th Jan. 1975

ROYAL ACADEMY OF ARTS, TURNER 15 Old Bond Street, W.1. 14th Dec. 11th Jan. 1975

SARIN GALLERY, 4 Core St., W.1. 14th Dec. 11th Jan. 1975

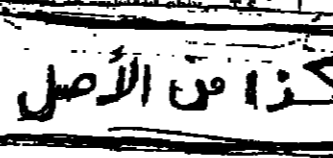
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CLAUDE FINE ART CHRISTMAS 25 Old Bond Street, W.1. 14th Dec. 11th Jan. 1975



ENTERTAINMENTS

ALSO ON PAGE 6

PERA AND BALLET

GARDEN OPERA 040 1011... THE ROYAL BALLET... THE FAIRY QUEEN...

THEATRES

JOHN PAUL GEORGE BINGO... THE GINGERBREAD LADY... THE DANNY LA RUE SHOW...

CONCERTS

ALBERT HALL... THE ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA...

THEATRES

THE NATIONAL THEATRE... THE GINGERBREAD LADY... THE DANNY LA RUE SHOW...

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THE NATIONAL THEATRE... THE GINGERBREAD LADY... THE DANNY LA RUE SHOW...

THE ARTS

A 'Titus' well worth hearing

Mozart's La clemenza di Tito... through and through, and whenever one cannot fully agree with his interpretation, one willingly respects it.



Paul Klee in 1939

Horst Laubenthal and Agnes Baltza

The performance began ominously with an announcement from the stage describing Agnes Baltza, in the role of Sempra, as suffering from a slight cold but 'freundlicher Weise' willing to go on.

WYNDHAM'S

WYNDHAM'S (836 3288)... THE GINGERBREAD LADY... THE DANNY LA RUE SHOW...

CINEMAS

ARC 1 & 2, Shaftesbury Ave. 836 8961... THE GINGERBREAD LADY... THE DANNY LA RUE SHOW...

THEATRES

THE NATIONAL THEATRE... THE GINGERBREAD LADY... THE DANNY LA RUE SHOW...

dominates this opera, giving its performer rewarding material ranging over two and a half octaves and a vast gamut of emotions.

Horst Laubenthal, if he failed to make the cardboard countour Titus a believable human being did afford admirable display to a lyrical tenor voice of purity and quality.

Paul Moore

The only explanation which comes to mind derives from the fact that Mozart composed Titus to order for the celebrations accompanying Emperor Leopold II's coronation, with the probable intention of presenting him to his subjects, by implication, as just as fine and noble a fellow as old Titus.

LPO/Barenboim Festival Hall

William Mann... Daniel Barenboim certainly lives up to the valorous associations of his name.

Bettina Jonic Royal Court

Robert Shelton... A brilliant, innovating approach to the complex world of two seminal songwriters, Bertolt Brecht and Bob Dylan.

Amadeus Quartet Queen Elizabeth Hall

Stanley Sadie... None of Beethoven's quartets, except possibly Op 130 in its original form, is interpretatively as demanding as the C sharp minor, with its unbroken span of 40 minutes during which so much happens.

Stanley Sadie

While objects like the one illustrated attract publicity, it is worth remembering that a high proportion of the lots sold for under £100.



Paul Klee in 1939

Klee on the edge of anxiety

The beautiful exhibition Paul Klee: the last years, shown at the Edinburgh Festival in September, has now opened in London at the Hayward Gallery.

Some idea of the official view of modern artists at that time can be got from the story of Art, who also applied for Swiss citizenship, some years before, and was refused on the grounds that his art was bound to lead him to the lunatic asylum and there he would become a burden on public funds.

Klee did not speak much about the political events of the time. He never painted an explicit attack on fascism as Picasso did in Guernica. But his art was quick to note the growing atmosphere of militarism, spying and fear.

Amadeus Quartet Queen Elizabeth Hall

Stanley Sadie... None of Beethoven's quartets, except possibly Op 130 in its original form, is interpretatively as demanding as the C sharp minor, with its unbroken span of 40 minutes during which so much happens.

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£4,000 plus Appointments



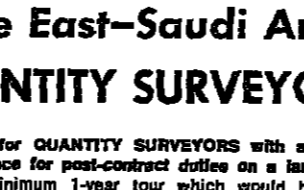
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UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

Monash University MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA CHAIR OF FLUID MECHANICS

CENTRE FOR RESOURCE AND ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES SENIOR FELLOW OR FELLOW

The primary role of the Senior Fellow or Fellow is to provide leadership and guidance to the Centre's research and teaching activities.

University of London UNIVERSITY ENTRANCE AND EXAMINATIONS BOARD

Applications are invited for the post of Chief Examiner in the G.C.E. examination in the following subjects: CHEMISTRY, PHYSICS, MATHEMATICS.

EDUCATIONAL SECRETARIAL COLLEGE

Applications are invited for the post of Secretary in the Educational Secretarial College.

DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY

Applications are invited for the post of Lecturer in the Department of Chemistry.

University of New South Wales DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL CHEMISTRY

Applications are invited for the post of Lecturer in the Department of Industrial Chemistry.

UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

University of Warwick POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS

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Applications are invited for the post of Postdoctoral Research Fellow in the Biological Sciences.

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Attractive AU PAIR job. 5 days per week. £100 per week. Includes travel, food, and pocket money.

REQUIRED

All domestic staff. Resident. Good references. Salary by agreement.

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Salary £3,000 p.a. plus 25 per cent TAX FREE Gratuity. Previous all-round buying experience in a supermarket and/or a department store is essential.

ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER

Salary £3,750 p.a. plus 25 per cent TAX FREE Gratuity. To help run a group of two department stores and supermarkets. Previous store/retail management experience is essential.

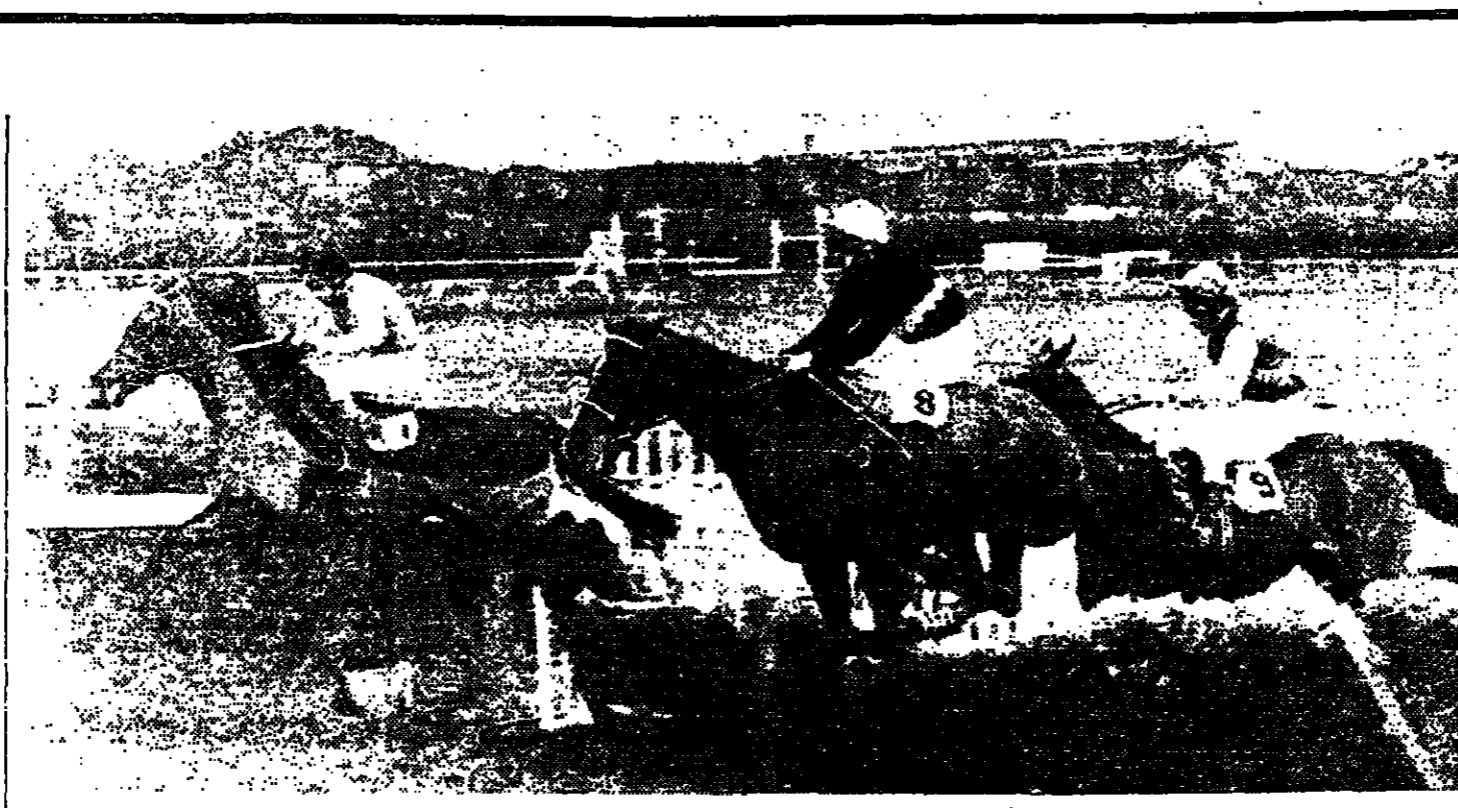
Malawi

Malawi BUYING AND TRADE AGENTS, 01-638 1829 extension 508, quoting the appropriate reference number.

SPORT

Racing Chepstow flourishing with Hughes's imaginative flair

By Michael Phillips Racing Correspondent A quiet week as far as racing is concerned will end with an imaginative day's racing at Chepstow...



Favourite style. Papa Noel, ridden by Paul Kelleway, takes the last flight of hurdles just behind Bungebag, whom he went on to beat by five lengths in the Ivy Handicap Hurdle at Leicester. Ideoiti Miway (Redvers Weaver) takes up the rear.

Even Dawn to miss Aintree in favour of Cheltenham

Even Dawn, the winner of the Holy Handicap Steeplechase at Leicester yesterday, has earned himself a place in the £7,500 Whitbread Northern Handicap Trophy at Newcastle in January...

Apprentice scores 51.5th victory in one year

Laurel, Maryland, Dec 16.—Apprentice jockey Christopher McCarron, equalled the world record here today for the most victories in a single year...

Plumpton programme

- 12.45 KEYMER STEEPLECHASE (E550: 3m) 1-13-01 Khan (D) Mr. J. G. ... 2-11-20 Mr. J. G. ... 3-11-20 Mr. J. G. ...

Warwick programme

- 12.30 WARWICK STEEPLECHASE (Handicap: £204: 2m) 1-13-01 Khan (D) Mr. J. G. ... 2-11-20 Mr. J. G. ... 3-11-20 Mr. J. G. ...

Warwick selections

- 12.30 WARWICK STEEPLECHASE (Handicap: £204: 2m) 1-13-01 Khan (D) Mr. J. G. ... 2-11-20 Mr. J. G. ... 3-11-20 Mr. J. G. ...

Leicester results

- 12.30 CHRISTMAS PUDDING HURDLE (Div II: £372) 1-13-01 Khan (D) Mr. J. G. ... 2-11-20 Mr. J. G. ... 3-11-20 Mr. J. G. ...

Plumpton selections

- 12.45 Khan. 1.15 Otago Gold. 1.45 Chance a Look. 2.15 Good Relations. 2.45 Young Robert. 3.15 Miller Boy.

Request for Government to help safety measures

An attempt to force Government to agree to statutory safety work at sports grounds was made in the Lords yesterday by Lord Wigg...

PARLIAMENT, Dec 16, 1974

Finance Bill change to assist work on fire precautions

House of Commons MR ROY JENKINS, Home Secretary (Birmingham, Stechford, Lab.), made a statement about the two recent tragic fires...

Now comes a lean time after the feast in a barren land Lions in a corner eating humble Christmas pie

John Reason's account of the British Lions tour in South Africa last summer must, for its technical analysis and the colourful details of its reporting, be required reading for those who are interested in the game...

£50.3m on food subsidies helping to hold prices

MR NEUBERT (Havering, Romford, C) asked the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection...

More tax than subsidy

MR GOW (Eastbourne, C) asked the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection...



Fashion

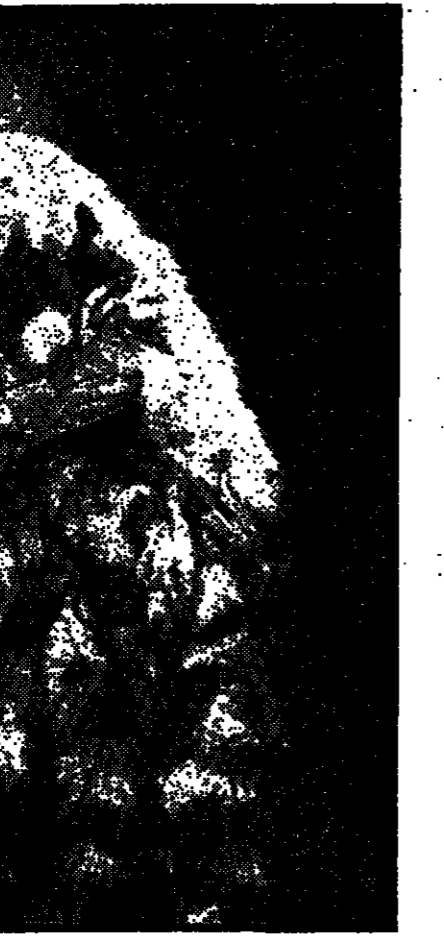
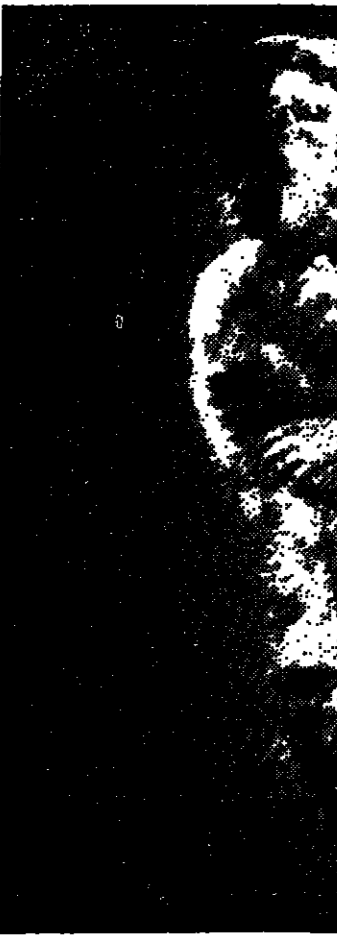
Prudence Glynn

Furs by any other name

Few areas of fashion have been more affected by contemporary views on social responsibility than furs. It has taken long enough in all conscience, but the most primitive of all forms of dress—wearing someone else's readymade birthday suit—is now quite rightly subject to stringent controls.

In this battle to conserve and protect from suffering a great many forms of wildlife there exists one piece of psychological reasoning which quite baffles me. I refer to the advertising campaigns aimed at persuading women to eschew the real, rare fur for the nearest possible synthetic alternative. The reasoning behind this is, I suppose, of the "better to marry than burn" variety, that since women cannot be prevented from wanting these furs they can at least be pushed into the arms of the fakes, which are so lovely and so realistic that no one will know without a second hard look that they are not real. To me this is bizarre. I believe that you need to make the whole idea of wearing certain furs disreputable, and that the way to begin making them disreputable is to make them unfashionable.

Realism suggests that in most people a social conscience comes some way after the desire for self-adornment. By all means have textiles inspired by the miraculous colourings of nature. But they should be fabrics on which those colourings are used to make something new and beautiful in its own right, not a clever copy of the original animal. A brilliant fake will always inspire someone to want the real thing—and how many people read the small print anyway?



With the longer skirts the best shape for furs is a cape, which incidentally has the built-in advantage of looking much prettier than a jacket or stole over an evening dress. Here are three ideas in ruffled fur. Top: Mid-calf cape of lynx dyed fox with front button fastening on a band of suede, by Maxwell Croft Furs, £1,095. Made to order from 105 New Bond Street, London W1. Tel: 01-629 6226. Shetland wool polo neck

sweater from a large selection at Bourne & Hollingsworth, London W1, £2.50. Wool gabardine culottes by Charles Gray at Crocodile. Sizes 10-14. Colours, black, brown, bottle green, rust and airforce blue, £16.25 from 98 New Bond Street and branches. Above right: White mink evening cape reversing to an elaborate brocade, trimmed with mink, by Grosvenor of Canada. Matching jumpsuit made from the dress length given

with the cape. Customers can choose from a small selection of brocades. Cape and suit £1,700, to order from Harrods fur showrooms. Above left: A cape of red fox pieces with, if desired, a belt slipping through the front. By Kay West Furs, £290. To order from 21-22 Heddon Street, London W1. Tel: 01-734 0777. Beret by Edward Mann at Harrods, £5.50 in assorted colours. Photographs by Willis Christie.

Warmth without waist

Since I personally find a temperature of 68 degrees practically arctic, I have much enjoyed the correspondence in this paper on the subject of how to keep warm, healthy, physically regenerate (and maybe morally too) and generally more lively by not adding the heft of extra weight to the body. This restriction of the circulation, he held, made different parts of the body receive unequal nourishment and thus develop unequally.

To illustrate this point, Dr Jaeger pointed at the "sparrow-like legs and protruding stomachs" of his male contemporaries, and attributed them to the design of the modern trouser. The trouser, said he, was both a health hazard because as a tube it encouraged draughts, and also unaesthetic. At this point I should warn gentlemen who feel the cold and are anxiously reading this page for hints on a cosier costume that what Dr Jaeger recommended in place of the trousers he deplored would hardly be considered aesthetic by most people nowadays.

I am not of course in a position to comment on the sparrow-like legs and protruding stomachs of readers, nor even of my colleagues, since modern male dress is expressly designed to conceal the physique of a man, to enclose him in a straight line of cloth from shoulders (padded) to ankle (wide), which is probably why the suit has survived so long. But Dr Jaeger would have you in knee breeches, gentlemen, and woolly stockings. As a matter of fact, he would have preferred you in a brief tunic and tights, the costume in which the blood could circulate most freely, and as a matter of fact so could you, accompanied I should think by cries of "Hello, varlet!"

But even with dress reform at its most fashionable it was unacceptable, so instead you should wear with your knee breeches a Sanitary Woollen Shirt, no underpants (unless you were aged, decrepit or spartan), like all over) and the tails of the shirt pulled between your legs and fastened at the front with a safety pin.

Readers who are by now totally unweary as to how to keep warm and healthy may like to know that we are hard at work constructing a nice knitted executive jacket for cold offices and to spare expensive suits, and we hope to have it ready for your chilled fingers to knit in the New Year.

The sole source of heat in the house was the kitchen fire round which they all sat "like a family of stokers" while draughts which would have horrified Dr Jaeger whistled in all directions. Hot pennies applied to the frozen windows revealed (for a few moments anyway) dark bleak windblown moorland and a few sad birds.

For from finding all this healthy and invigorating for mind and body, Hester Gray recognized that instead of "growing up great strapping women, fit and strong and with a contempt for the soft life, alas, we were small and tenacious and gnarled as the thorns the sparrows froze to, and made good our escape as early as possible."

Her grandmother suffered perpetual bronchitis and ultimately died of it and Ms Gray had rheumatism and rheumatic fever as a child as well as continual tonsillitis and feverish colds pneumonia at 18 and agonising chilblains.

And for I too remember the chilblains of an unheated youth, and almost the last time I stayed in a private house up north it was so cold that I had to get into the bath with my dress still on to shroud my quivering torso and could only bear to pull it off over my head when my lower limbs had been un-numbed by the hot water.

As for fashion, how can one feel the same about those romantic "aesthetic" dresses of the late 'eighties knowing that underneath them the ladies were wearing stout, fleecy lined drawers of a style which would have been called by this generation "passion-killers."

And not even the hope of having my blood released from an inactive locality and left free to be used in the brain (and elsewhere) promoted by Mr Adair in 1898 is going to get me back into stays or a Waist Belt.

For I agree with Hester Gray that "it is really exciting when life ceases to be a bitter and uncomfortable struggle against the elements and we can find ourselves as people..."

ICAA helps all kinds of Handicapped Children
Funds, legacies, urgently needed
Invaluable Children's Aid Association
126 Buckingham Palace Road
London, S.W.1.

I enclose £..... p.... to help
HANDICAPPED CHILDREN

Name.....
Address.....

INCURABLES
DON'T LET OUR NAME WORRY YOU

The name doesn't worry our severely disabled patients. They come here to live in homelike surroundings often for ten years or more.

OUR WORRY is increasing costs. Please help by sending a donation or arranging a legacy.

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BRITISH HOME & HOSPITAL FOR INCURABLES
Crown Lane, Streatham, London SW16 3JB
Patron H.M. Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother

هنا من الأصيل

No breach of duty by Post Office customer to injured sorter

Smith v Southwark Offset Ltd
Before Mr Justice Bristow

A former Post Office employee who in the course of his employment sustained a back injury while lifting a bag, sent by a customer, exceeding the weight limit prescribed by the Post Office, failed in his action for damages for negligence against the customer.

His Lordship held that the plaintiff, Mr Frederick Ernest Smith, had failed to show that the defendant, Southwark Offset Ltd, owed him a duty of care not to load the bag over the limit, and dismissed his claim.

Mr J. B. Goswami for Mr Smith, Southwark Offset Ltd, said that the bag belonged to Southwark Offset. Four of their bags were checked and they weighed respectively 63N, 70N, 74N and 76N. Smith was not the only one to be injured by a bag which exceeded the weight limit. He was in London, transported them himself to Mount Pleasant Post Office, where he handed them over on a unloading platform.

Section 55 of the Factories Act 1961 was another section which suggested that it might have been spontaneous rather than caused by trying to lift the bag. He was now back in the area made on clerical work.

Mr Smith pleaded that the company owed him a duty not to load their bags beyond 50lb. In his Lordship's judgment, to establish such a duty it must be proved (1) that the company were told by the Post Office that they must not load bags above that weight and (2) that that limit was imposed because any greater weight would cause risk to the safety of Post Office employees who might handle the bags.

Mr Smith relied on, inter alia, the Post Office Guide and the company's knowledge of the limit because of the fact that it was pleaded in the defence that the company's premises could have exceeded 40lb. Even if the company knew of the weight limit, his Lordship did not think that their knowledge would amount to evidence that they ought to have known that it was a weight limit for the safety of Post Office employees. For all the company knew, no non-mechanical lifting might have been involved, or, if it was, it could be presumed to be lifted by two men. In the circumstances, the company was not in breach of any duty to Mr Smith.

Court of Appeal

Stamp duty payable on companies merger

Crane Frushant Ltd v Inland Revenue Commissioners
Before Lord Justice Russell, Lord Justice Stamp and Lord Justice Scarman

The Court of Appeal dismissed an appeal by the taxpayer company, Crane Frushant Ltd, from the decision of Mr Justice Russell (The Times, December 29, 1973) of its appeal against assessments to stamp duty made by the Inland Revenue Commissioners in respect of certain documents which the company claimed were entitled to exemption from duty under section 55 of the Finance Act 1957.

That consideration for the transfer included the issue of the 500,000 shares on the terms that the Bodens shareholders should sell them to FIL, the question still remained whether those shares were, within the meaning of section 55(1) of the Finance Act 1957, the subject of an issue of shares "to the holders of shares" in Bodens. That at the moment of the transfer the 500,000 shares became bound to sell them to FIL could not be doubted, and so from that moment FIL became the equitable owner of them.

Concern over trial that lasted 12 weeks

Regina v Fisher
Before Lord Justice Cairns, Mr Justice Chapman and Mr Justice Phillips
[Judgment delivered December 11]

Concern over the length of a 12-week trial and a period of 21 particular quarters, but they were not view with equanimity the fact that they had been considering the appeal against conviction of a man sentenced to five years imprisonment nearly two years ago.

The summing up on the three 1964 counts was a serious defect in not directing the jury to examine particular questions which arose in relation to three of the counts. A charge of obtaining a cheque by false pretences was not established by showing that a victim was induced to hand over a cheque in favour of a company.

The other disturbing fact was that it had taken 21 months from the time of the conviction for the appeal to be heard. There were doubtless reasons at every stage, again owing largely to the complexities of the case, why unusual delays occurred, and their Lordships attributed no blame in any particular quarter, but they were not view with equanimity the fact that they had been considering the appeal against conviction of a man sentenced to five years imprisonment nearly two years ago.

Tributes to Mr Justice Finer

Justices of the Family Division, together with several other judges, observed a silence in tribute to Mr Justice Finer, who died during the weekend.

Sir George Baker, President, said that he had been appointed judge less than two years ago while he was engaged as chairman of the committee on the one-off payment of £100,000 to be paid only occasionally. He had worked hard and long in his own time and on vacations. His monumental task was to modernise the law of trusts and land, and marked a milestone in our social progress.

Referring to his recent appointment as chairman of the Royal Commission on the Law and Practice of the Courts and Judges, Mr Justice Finer said that even those who were weary—who had reservations about a prime judge being asked to chair a commission—were all agreed that there was no one better qualified and more likely to produce an objective, comprehensive and worthwhile report.

University news

Oxford
Awards and elections:
C. R. C. (Oxford) has elected as President, Mr J. B. Goswami, and as Vice-President, Mr J. B. Goswami. The Council has also elected as Secretary, Mr J. B. Goswami, and as Treasurer, Mr J. B. Goswami.

25 years ago

From The Times of Friday, December 16, 1949

From Our Correspondent
The Hague, Dec 15.—The International Court of Justice today gave judgment for Britain in the Corfu Channel case by 12 votes to two and awarded damages of £843,947 against Albania.



Fragrance isn't
just for roses!

The manufacturers of polishes, soaps, window cleaners, aerosol sprays, shampoos, washing powders, floor cleaners, shaving cream – and even the people who make paints, plastics and fuel oils – will tell you the importance of fragrance to consumer product loyalty in their markets.

Those are just a few of the products that, without added fragrance, would not be as pleasant to use. Finding and producing suitable fragrances that appeal to consumers, which are stable and stay fresh during the life of the product and above all are economic for the manufacturer, is a tricky job. It's a job for specialists.

That's where Albright & Wilson come in.

Our perfumers are artists in fragrance. They work with a team of technicians in our applications laboratories at Walthamstow to produce new odours and test them in the products for which they are intended. On a laboratory scale they produce, soaps and cosmetic creams, fill and test aerosols, make shampoos and put them through their paces in our hairdressing salon.

We supply manufacturing industries with the fragrances that they need on a large scale – blended fragrances from distilled essential oils and derivatives, flower absolutes, herbal extracts and synthetic odours derived from natural sources.

We produce the materials used by some of the world's leading perfumers. In some countries our own retail brands of perfume outsell all others!

The smell of good business!

**ALBRIGHT &
WILSON LTD**

1Knightsbridge Green, London SW1X 7QD Tel: 01-589 6393

Bernard Levin

The best place to fight prejudice is out in the open

When the uproar over the anti-Zionist advertisement in this paper began, I must confess to an unworthy feeling of relief, closely akin to that presumably experienced by a fox which, having gone to earth in an attempt to evade the hounds, puts his terrified head out of the burrow for a peep at the situation, and discovers that the hounds are in full cry after his brother. No doubt it is distressing for a fox to see his brother torn to pieces by savage dogs, but no doubt it is much more so for him to suffer the same fate himself. I am, as may well be supposed, no stranger to uproar, but more to the point, I am no stranger to this particular kind of uproar. I once caused the entire postal system of the Daily Mail to collapse by writing an article, not long before the Six Day War, sharply criticising what I felt were some quite unacceptable remarks by the Chief Rabbi concerning a supposed "stunt" by British Jews to "stage" a march through Jerusalem, though Dr Jakobovits himself was magnanimously unresentful of what I wrote, well over 1,000 letters of protest poured in to the editor from those determined to be taken to the hilt by the Chief Rabbi, and for the most part displaying a most distasteful fanaticism and intolerance towards any criticism of Israel. But what was most interesting about the episode, and its implications most dismaying, was that of the

letters written to me (there were about 1,000 of those, too), as distinct from those addressed to the editor, a substantial majority of those from Jewish correspondents said that they agreed with what I had written but were reluctant or afraid to say so publicly, for fear of the consequences in social and family criticism or even ostracism. It is against that background of personal experience, therefore, that I offer a comment on the advertisement that caused the fuss, on the fuss that it caused, and on the decision by the Board of Deputies of British Jews to seek the prosecution of The Times under the Race Relations Act. The advertisement seemed to me to be silly, nasty and dishonest. Silly in its self-defeating hatred and rant ("More money from Britain to support the Israel war machine..."), nasty in its implication that British Jews who give money to Israel put that country before their own ("Is it Britain more by Israel?"), and dishonest in its attempts to convince readers that it is public money which is going to Israel from Britain ("Mrs Meir was here demanding more sacrifice from the country already drained through world recession"). But the question is not whether the case made in the advertisement was just; it is whether the advertisement should have been printed. Of course it should. The critics of the decision to publish

it seems to me to have no more understanding of what a newspaper (or an advertisement, for that matter) is than the man who not long ago tried to prosecute the Oxford University Press, for including in the OED pejorative definitions of word Jew, apparently had of what a dictionary is. The two affairs, moreover, seem to me to have a good deal in common. It was impossible to get into the head of the complainant against the dictionary that to record, say, the verb "to Jew" as meaning "to swindle", did not imply that the dictionary's editors or publishers thought that all, or indeed any, Jews were swindlers; their duty was simply to include words which existed, in the meanings given to them. If, as is certainly the case, popular usage employs, or has in the past employed, the word "Jew" and "to Jew" for that matter—then a dictionary would be defective if it did not include it, and for my part I would not dream of buying a dictionary which, otherwise sufficiently comprehensive to include such words, excluded them on the ground that they might give offence. And I think that that point is closely analogous to the one that lies at the heart of the advertisement argument. Newspapers commonly publish advertisements on matters of public controversy; obvious examples are party-political advertisements at election time, statements by both sides in a strike or other industrial dispute, and rival bids in a takeover. Sometimes—usually, now I come to think of it—these advertisements are grossly partisan, though masquerading as objective statements of fact; often, I have no doubt, they give serious offence, and in some cases are intended to. A newspaper has a duty to see that nothing in its advertisements contravenes any criminal or civil law (the law makes no distinction between editorial and advertising columns); it has a duty to make quite clear that an advertisement is an advertisement, and not part of the editorial matter; it has a duty to open its advertising space to conflicting opinions; and it has a duty, should the question arise, to make clear its own view of the matter in dispute. (All these duties The Times has consistently fulfilled; nor has it been found wanting in any of them over the present episode.) Yet The Times, it is seriously argued, should have refused the advertisement—should, that is, have imposed censorship on columns which are supposed to be available to all those who will keep within the law and can pay for the space—because it might have the effect of encouraging those who "seek to sow the seeds of racial hatred". So indeed it might; it is difficult to think of anything a strongly committed partisan

Korea: Why the North-South deadlock will go on

The Koreans have scarcely yet lived in a world outside the East Asian one. The unified state under the Yi dynasty (1392-1910) ruled an even more compact Confucian society than China's size and diversity was allowed; China's suzerainty was thus readily accepted and the only occasional intruders were the Japanese. The mid-nineteenth century Western confrontation with China and Japan scarcely touched Korea; such modernization as was injected into the country in the last two decades of the century came through Chinese and Japanese channels. And just when a Korean nationalism was shaping up in the last years of the nineteenth century, China's defeat by Japan left Korea open to Japanese domination. From 1910 until the defeat of 1945, Korea was again a part of an East Asian enclosure. With Japanese rule ended in 1945, Korea's arrested nationalism found the country divided for the purposes of the postwar occupation and thereby precipitated into the cold war. Both North and South Korea still bear the marks of that upbringing. In the North, the postwar period is a history of political party has any substance cause this Confucian society offers no tradition for though urban resentment the Park regime has grown the past few years since made his rule semi-permanent. The north, with the great independence and the more positive doctrine is thus stronger politically. In E Asia, Korea is the only country in an area where democracy. President Park's insistence on less authoritarianism of Mr Kim Il-sung, but for some formal acknowledgment of democratic practice is necessary to accord with the "sic utere tuo" which South Korea has inherited since the post-war period. No opposition political party has any substance cause this Confucian society offers no tradition for though urban resentment the Park regime has grown the past few years since made his rule semi-permanent.

Closed doors but open hearts in Moscow

Western visitors to the Soviet Union, particularly journalists, are practically unanimous in reporting that the natives are nervous of talking to foreigners. I put this to a Soviet journalist who was arranging some official interviews in Moscow for me. He said that the Russian people were warm and open and that any time I wanted to talk to a typical worker he would be happy to arrange it. I said I would not be terribly impressed by an officially selected typical worker and would like to choose someone myself on the street. I thought he went a shade pale, so I let the matter rest for a day or two. He called it again as we were driving along a Moscow street. "Right," he said, "stop the car. Who do you want to talk to? We leapt out and descended on a likely-looking youth. He turned out to be just about to start his military service. I asked him if he was looking forward to it. He was not. Did he think it would be a good idea if the Soviet Union had a volunteer army like the United States? Yes, great, he said. Did he think the Soviet Union was much threatened? Not much, though there were some people in the west who were against détente. What did he know about Britain? "A troubled country," he said, accurately enough, and then thought of the Beatles and brightened visibly. He seemed refreshingly normal and relaxed and spoke in a fair smattering of English. We tried another young man in a bookshop in Leningrad. He whispered to our guide that he was not the best person to ask about Soviet life because he had applied for emigration. When this was translated I said he knew that some Soviet Jews had been trying to get back from Israel. "But only a small percentage, surely," he said, speaking English. "And anyway, I want to go to Italy. I get to Vienna? Is it easy to get a visa to America?" He seemed anxious at first but relaxed when he apparently decided we were not the KGB. Next we accosted a very charming girl who said she was a geologist from Siberia who had travelled entirely on her own to Leningrad to look at books. Later we learnt that although it would be easy enough for her to travel in this way it would not be easy for her to find accommodation unless she was on official business. She was shy and nervous and somewhat vague about her life in Leningrad. Then we drove out to a rather drab youth club where some youngsters were playing ping-pong. They said they were quite happy with everything, that their flats were good, that they had no differences with their parents, that they were looking forward to military service, and that they would volunteer if there were no conscription. Then gradually they began to fire back questions. "What about Northern Ireland? What about Chile? What about inflation in the West? What about the British Communist Party?" I did my best and found in the course of this discussion that they swallowed all the official lines about Czechoslovakia (but they were only teenagers) and that some of them thought that Russian workers lived better than British or American workers. But others were uncertain. "The present belongs to you but the future belongs to us," said one. I don't know whether they spoke their real thoughts, but it was lively discussion and nobody tried to stop it or censor the translation although it touched on some fairly sensitive subjects. Later my wife and I went off on our own to a new housing development on the outskirts of Moscow. A man mending an old car said his flat was free but could not explain why. He said he thought he was better off then in the west and asked about prices. In every case we asked mostly non-political questions and showed so much interest in living conditions that it was obvious we wanted to see a flat. Nobody invited us in. But nobody refused to talk or objected to what we were doing. Perhaps if we had had more time a door might have opened but foreign residents in Moscow said it was unlikely. Sadly, when very delightful interviews do invite us we could not make it. I don't know what these encounters prove except that with or without an official guide one can talk to Russians on windy street corners without anything very much happening.

Richard Davy

Divisions that must be closed to avoid civil war in Angola

Portugal's imperial disengagement went remarkably easily in Guinea-Bissau and in Mozambique; Angola, the richest of the African territories, is turning out to be a harder proposition. In fact the violent disorders of November have brought the threat of civil war between the nationalist movements close to reality; there have also been signs of divisions within the Portuguese military themselves over which movements to support. Angola's major problem is that there is no single nationalist movement that is in a position to take power as Frelimo did in Mozambique. The Organisation of African Unity (and several African leaders) have made considerable efforts to form a common front between the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA), the National Front for the Liberation of Angola (FNLA) and the Union for the Total Liberation of Angola (UNITA). They have had little success. All three have stopped fighting with the Portuguese. MPLA and FNLA have agreed to cease fires, and FNLA to a cessation of hostilities. All have agreed in principle to take part in a coalition government to prepare for independence. This would also involve other groups, such as members of the Portuguese forces, Angolan civil servants and white politicians. The actual details of power sharing and positions have not yet been worked out and here the proposals run into the divisions between the movements. Portugal is now trying to speed up the process of agreement, spurred on recently by the violent riots in Luanda, Angola's capital. Although there have been allegations of the troubles being caused by agents-provocateurs, ultimately it has been the ill-feelings, particularly those between MPLA and FNLA, that lie behind them. In fact all three movements have recently set up offices in Luanda and apparently the size of the welcome for UNITA's delegation when it arrived caused misgivings to MPLA supporters. MPLA also claimed that there were some firm personal supporters of FNLA troops to help the Portuguese forces to restore order. There are divisions among the liberation movement go back a long way and are both political and ideological. MPLA, which is firmly Marxist, is led by Dr Augusto Neto, who has substantial intellectual support. It



Dr Neto of MPLA: Back in overall control.

is the most broadly based of the movements and has been the most vigorous militarily over the past few years. It has, however, suffered, especially in the past two years, from internal splits. Dr Neto appears to be difficult to work with, and at the moment there are at least three factions one of which appears to be virtually joined to FNLA at the moment; but although Dr Neto was nearly frozen out earlier this year, he now appears to be back in overall control. MPLA has had considerable support from Zambia and Tanzania. President Nyerere and Samora Machel, Frelimo's president, are firm personal supporters of Dr Neto. FNLA, led by Holden Roberto, has no such ideological leanings. It is primarily based in Northern Angola and has had little support outside this area. Although it was in this part that the struggle against the Portuguese started, MPLA certainly believe that since the mid-1960s FNLA have played a very little part in the fighting. They have accused FNLA of opportunism and worse, and are highly suspicious of reports that FNLA have been doubling the size of their armed forces recently. Roberto's mentor and major supporter is President Mobutu of Zaire, who has backed FNLA since its inception. UNITA, the smallest of the three major movements, was also ideologically committed, though it appears to have lost some of its Maoist image since it stopped fighting. It was the first movement to stop fighting and was thus able to begin political activities before the others. The leader, Jonas Savimbi, originally broke away from FNLA accusing Roberto of tribalism. However, in the wake of imminent recognition by the OAU, Savimbi has been involved in recent meetings in Kinshasa with Roberto. An agreement was signed between UNITA and FNLA at the end of November allowing FNLA to operate in UNITA areas, and arranging for joint political activity. Daniel Chipenda, leader of an MPLA faction was also at the meetings and appears to be closely linked with FNLA at the moment. An area of disagreement between MPLA and FNLA that became important last month was the Cabinda enclave that produces most of Angola's

No allegiance to the state

The Christian church Roman Catholic and Protest have lately been prominent. Missionaries were the westerners most easily intruded in Korea at the end of the 19th century, and they were agents of modernisation as well as were in China at that period. The result is that Roman Catholic and Protestant churches developed independently as indigenous positions, though much support from abroad. They can play a part because they are based on institutions asserted on society owing no allegiance directly to the all-powerful state; even the Korean state is inhibited in such a text. Yet the willingness to accept authority and the still strong anti-communist posture will make for any political promise with the north. If Americans did withdraw in a few years' time, concluding the future state of Korea longer negotiations with President Park's authority would be very much undermined. Against this must be set economic growth of the two decades which has brought South Korea fully into the Asian prosperity sphere. It also be added that in the text of East Asian modernisation, the West has a pull being seen as more advanced technologically and culturally than the communist alternatives. The Chinese are glad to better relations with the Americans now for the same reason. Western world may evoke response among more people than in East Asia. The rigour in doctrine, the Park regime in the north holds some long-term cards for some time the dead-end between north and south remain unbroken. Following President Park's reassurance visit to Seoul North Korean-inspired reaction at the United Nations the withdrawal of all foreign troops from South Korea under the flag of the UN Nations" ended in a tie. An American-sponsored amendment referring to the Security Council the admittedly relevant dissolution of the UN command was passed against strong Chinese opposition by 61 to 42 with 32 abstentions. The deadlock continues.

Richard Hall

Times Newspapers Ltd, Previous articles in this section appeared on December 2, 4 and 16.

The Times Diary

Why the BBC must tell us all

It is seldom that I find myself lining up alongside Mary Whitehouse, the honorary secretary of the National Viewers and Listeners' Association. Indeed I do not think it has ever happened before. My views on what does and what does not make good and acceptable broadcasting are generally precisely the opposite of hers. All the same, I have to support wholeheartedly her campaign to get the BBC to tell the public, on whose financial support they depend, how much money they spend on individual programmes. Mrs Whitehouse's assertion that £300,000 was spent on *Casanova* and £50,000 on *Leeds United* has been neither substantiated nor denied by the corporation, who say it would be against their policy to do so. I am not interested in the merits or otherwise of the two programmes, neither of which I saw. From reading about the controversy over *Leeds United* it seems to me that objections to it were partly political, and I probably should not have supported them. If the objections to *Casanova* were based on prurience, I should have opposed them, too. The professionals in the BBC must be given a large measure of freedom to decide how their money is spent, even if in some cases it means spending a disproportionately large amount on something which will have minority appeal. The important issue is that of public accountability. A body which gets all its funds from the public ought to be obliged to answer any question from anyone about how the money is spent. I put the point to a BBC spokesman who appeared to belong to that school of communication which believes that if you say something firmly and often enough it will be believed, even if it is patently ridiculous. "We believe in public accountability," he said repeatedly, reeling off a list of Government and other bodies to which the BBC had opened their books and their souls. They had even allowed themselves to be gone over by a

firm of management consultants, who had pronounced themselves pleased with their efficiency. Yet the phrase public accountability means accountability to the public. If the BBC really believed in it they would give Mrs Whitehouse and me and anyone the information we wanted. I met the same obfuscation when I inquired about another complaint by Mrs Whitehouse, that an airfield had been hired to display Shirley Bassey's name in lights for a Christmas spectacular. A different spokesman (a spokesman) dealt with this one, but she belonged to the same school of heavy-handed public relations. It was quite wrong, she maintained, to say that the airfield had been "hired". It was the RAF airfield at Wittering and the BBC had merely been given a permission to use it. Did this then mean, I asked, that no fee was involved? That seemed to be the only situation in which the word "hire" (payment by contract for use of something) would be inappropriate. No, it did not mean that at all, said the woman. She would neither confirm or deny that a fee had been charged (For the benefit of those unsure, dealing with slippery publicists, that means there certainly was a fee, in which case Mrs Whitehouse's use of the word "hire" was justified.) Since no question of national security is involved, the BBC's refusal to tell us how it spends our money means that they think they have something to hide, and that they do not consider ordinary people fit to be entrusted with their sensitive secrets. All we are required to do is keep shelling out ever increasing sums of cash. It will not do.

Cagey

Sean MacBride, in London on his way back to New York from receiving the 1974 Nobel Peace Prize in Oslo, gave a press conference at the offices of Amnesty International yesterday. Most of the conversation concerned Namibia (MacBride has just been nominated for a second term as the United Nations Commissioner for the area) and the sudden liberalization of political statements in southern Africa. MacBride remarked sourly that the white politicians seemed more anxious to communicate with the rest of the world than with their own police. There had, he alleged, been a change in the attitude and prison conditions in the countries concerned. The Irish journalists present did their best to draw him on

the subject of Ireland. MacBride, whose father was executed by the British military and whose mother was also a leader in the independence movement, was imprisoned several times in the cause of Irish independence in his youth. On the first occasion he was only 14. Yesterday, however, he insisted he had nothing to say about Ireland. One especially well-judged and mischievous suggestion from a reporter was that the IRA should put their case to the United Nations General Assembly, like Yasser Arafat. MacBride, who was briefly the IRA's chief of staff in the relatively tranquil 1930s, declined to comment.

Bike boom

Spokesmen (pardon the pun) for the bicycle are rushing to its defence following my recent letter to the editor. It happened to the cycle boom. First to the telephone was Lord Avebury, a Liberal peer, who assured me that he was constantly to be seen in the saddle, as was his party colleague John Pardoe and his fellow peer Lord Hailsham. Then came a rather testy letter from a sales director of a leading cycle manufacturer. "Nothing has happened in the cycle boom", he fumed, adding for good measure that my note, which simply reported that no-

body had turned up to a meeting of cycling fans in the House of Commons, was "regrettably subjective and uninformed". He reported that potential cycle sales (odd phrase) in Britain this year would top a million units. Indeed, demand exceeded supply. The boom had been progressing nicely since 1964, when his company launched a high fashion unisex machine. Things would be even better if some streets in Central London were allotted solely to bicycles at the weekend. The Director of the British Cycling Bureau, Nicholas Cole, weighed in with a further letter. "It is not so much what happened to the bicycle boom", he wrote, "but when are we going to enjoy a real bicycle boom? With petrol at 65p and rising it could well be 1975." Promises, promises.

Transported

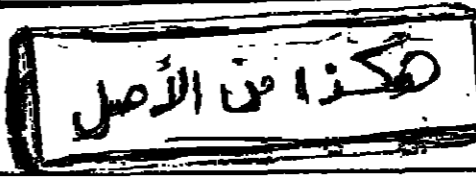
My description last month of a railway sleeping car in which I travelled to Thailand, with curtained bunks ranged on either side of a central corridor, has inspired a charming reminiscence from David Walker of Kensington. He says they sound like the carriages used in the United States in the early 'thirties. He and a friend were travelling from New York to Chicago. At dinner they shared a table with another man and an attractive girl. Walker left the table first and his friend returned some time later chatting to the girl. "I fell asleep, he was aware of the upper bunk in his dressing gown and padding



Lord O

Lord Olivier's illness is likely to keep him in hospital for Christmas. He is reported to be in good spirits, although he has now been in the Sussex County Hospital, Brighton, for some seven weeks suffering from muscular infarction. He is spending much of his time studying the libretto of Verdi's *Macbeth*, which he has been invited to direct at the Metropolitan Opera, New York, in 1976.

Hardly had yesterday's *Diary* the streets, with its criticism of broadcaster for talking of "children in school situations" than Richard Baker repeated offence in the BBC's *Start* how much he ad-libbed "in pantomime situation". The situation is getting out of hand.



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M CHIRAC'S BRILLIANT COUP

The sudden election of M Jacques Chirac as secretary-general of the Gaullist Party on Saturday morning has stretched the resources of France's political vocabulary. It is certainly a "coup de théâtre". But was it also the "coup de force" depicted by M Jacques Chaban-Delmas, or even the "coup d'état" gleefully noted by the opposition leader, M François Mitterrand? As for the resignation of M Alexandre Sanguinetti to make way for M Chirac, it was, according to M Chaban-Delmas, a "pantalonade", since only the day before M Sanguinetti had been heard saying he intended to stay on.

M Chirac certainly succeeded in taking his opponents by surprise. In *Le Monde* it is believed, he first broached the idea of taking over the party leadership at a dinner with the "barons" of Gaullism—M Debré, Couve de Murville, Chaban-Delmas, Messmer, Frey and Guichard—on Thursday night. The "barons" made it clear that they were against the idea, but were apparently under the impression that in any case it would not be put forward before February. On Friday, when telegrams were sent out announcing a meeting of the Central Committee at 8.30 the following morning, most of its hundred-odd members had no idea what the purpose of the meeting was to be.

Why then did M Chirac's

nomination go through by 57 votes to 27, against the opposition of the historic leaders of the party? Partly no doubt because the opposition had not been given any chance to find a credible alternative. The status quo could not be prolonged because M Sanguinetti was no longer prepared to be the whipping-boy of party malcontents. His clumsy attempts to defend a government with which he himself was temperamentally never in sympathy had exhausted the credit he once enjoyed in the party as a battle-scarred Gaullist warhorse.

M Jacques Legendre, an assistant secretary-general, put himself forward as a compromise candidate but this was brushed aside by M Chirac. Forced to choose between the prime minister and this unknown figure, the majority understandably chose the former. Not to do so would have been to precipitate a complete rupture between party and government, leading possibly to a vote of censure in the National Assembly and thus to a general election which the party is clearly in no condition to fight.

M Chirac's election may thus have postponed a split, but it can hardly have averted it. Many influential Gaullists already found the party's subordination to a predominantly non-Gaullist government a grievous humiliation. For these the sight of the party machine in the hands of the head of that government—a

State assistance in cathedral upkeep

From the Treasurer of Wells Cathedral

Sir, In your admirable leading article (December 11) you point perceptively to the case for regular state aid for the upkeep of cathedrals and other ecclesiastical monuments. Wells Cathedral is one of those few not yet having begun major repair or restoration work. Nor has there in the past been the need for a major appeal.

Most readers will know of the unique architectural and artistic beauty of Wells and be aware, from previous correspondence and elsewhere, of the urgent need of preservation which place a heavy burden of responsibility on the Dean and Chapter.

We believe we epitomize the position you describe. Set in a tiny city, in a vast rural area, we nevertheless attract thousands of visitors annually, many from overseas. For every reason we must maintain the balance between preserving our irreplaceable monuments and being a living sign of twentieth-century Christianity.

The thought of another major appeal cannot be appealing! Would that the case for some regular state aid be repeated and taken up, firmly and sympathetically.

Yours faithfully,
A. L. BIRBECK,
The Librarian,
Wells, Somerset,
December 11.

Breaking the Ulster stalemate

From Mr Bruce Anderson

Sir, The letter on Northern Ireland from six Labour MPs (December 13) contains a fundamental misconception which vitiates its arguments. It is about as useful to say that the people of Ireland must decide their own future as it would be to say that the people of Cyprus or the people of the Indian Empire must decide their own future: there are two peoples in Ireland, quite as distinct as the Greek and the Turkish, and any solution which ignores this would, if put into effect, lead to civil war. Ulster Unionism is not a matter of the idiosyncrasies of Messrs Paisley, Craig, and West: it is 900,000 people, a two-thirds majority of the population of the six counties of Northern Ireland.

Three axioms must underlie government policy on Ulster. Whereas continuation of the present impasse is unthinkable, troop withdrawal is not. There is no danger of civil war as long as British troops remain in Ulster: if they were withdrawn, there is no way in which civil war could be avoided. Secondly, no recrudescence of the evils of the Stormont system—which have in fact been delayed—must be permitted. And thirdly, there is no necessary connexion between the perfectly justifiable demands of the Civil Rights campaign and Irish nationalism. Given the history of Northern Ireland, it was inevitable that the first step should be to delay the letter, but unless one is a blood-and-soil nationalist in the tradition of Mussolini, Hitler, and the Provisional IRA, then one cannot deny the Protestants of Ulster their right to self-determination—though one can belatedly insist, as the price of an absolute guarantee of continued British support, that they conduct their political affairs in an acceptable manner.

It is of course easier to say what cannot be done in Ulster than it is to suggest viable positive measures. There remain the problems of defeating the Provisionals, who will always be irreconcilable and irreconcilable of securing the acquiescence of the Catholics to the future arrangements for Ulster, and of securing Protestant acceptance of a quasi-Sunningdale settlement which alone will make such acquiescence possible. And this is quite apart from the difficulty of satisfying the public opinion that there is only one possible responsible policy, and that the losses and sufferings which that policy will entail are a cruel necessity. In the past few months the Northern Ireland Office has been rather inactive: what is needed is a major political initiative involving all sections of opinion in Ireland, and in which the British Government should forcefully define its objectives. The very fact that the question of troop withdrawal appears to be on the agenda is damaging: it raises the Provisionals' morale, increases Protestant insecurity, and therefore support for paramilitary excursions, and serves generally to convince all sections of Irish opinion that the British are merely bewildered, temporary, and involuntary participants in events, and that therefore the only relevant

political activity is preparation for Der Tag.

Modern history could easily be written in terms of the malign development of nationalism and nationalist conflicts: it is only too likely that all attempts to secure a just solution in Ulster will fail. In that case drastic measures such as boundary redrawal and movement of population—the very contemplation of which seems to involve a negation of the values of rationality in politics—would have to be implemented: anything is better than civil war.

Anyone optimistic about the Irish situation would immediately be afflicted as psychotic by any competent psychiatrist, but however high the odds against success, there is still time—there must still be time—for an urgent, radical, and decisive initiative by Westminster.

Yours faithfully,
BRUCE ANDERSON,
115 Motlake Road,
Kew, Surrey.

From Mr Alastair Cowdy

Sir, In a depressing and partly realistic article ("Back beyond Square One in Ulster's aim of power-sharing", December 12), Hugh Munro argues that power-sharing within Northern Ireland cannot, by definition, work. Yet he offers no more precise definition of power-sharing than the implied one of "a means of reconciling Unionist with Nationalist".

Neither of those crude and misleading terms was used in either the power-sharing White Paper of March 1973 or the Constitution Act which followed it, and rightly so. They dealt with the reality of two largely segregated tribes known, for convenience, as Protestants and Catholics. These tribes tend overwhelmingly to have differing political attitudes beyond dispute; but for an experienced Dublin correspondent to continue to refer, after all this time, simply to the "Unionist" and "Nationalist" populations is a facile and dangerous oversimplification. Every shred of evidence which has emerged from the province since the most recent tainted opinion poll to the most catastrophic election result, has still suggested that by far the least unpopular political option is continuance as a guaranteed part of the United Kingdom (subject only to decennial referenda) with a devolved administration containing both respected and representative Catholics and Protestants. The rock on which British policy has foundered is merely the terms in which such an administration might be constructed.

Now that the ill-timed attempt to revise the Council of Ireland has, after Mr Mulrennan's resignation, been signed to the dustbin, a major obstacle to real and acceptable power-sharing has been removed. If Mr Rees could only bring himself to demand talks, now, on the subject of security between the parties in Northern Ireland, we might even see some progress towards at least a temporary peace.

Yours faithfully,
ALASTAIR N. COWDY,
40 Colville Terrace, W11.

Lending toll on library books

From Mr Basil Bunting

Sir, Let me protest against the thoughtless proposals to pay authors some kind of toll on books borrowed from libraries. They are bound to cripple literature.

Even on the face of them it must be evident that they would increase the rewards of best-seller writers without materially improving the pittance of serious writers. Learned, necessary books, books of hard originality are seldom borrowed, and a few pence a year, less income tax, would hardly make it more attractive to compose them.

But in a system which leaves authors at the mercy of publishers it will not be long before royalties and advances are diminished by as much as the publisher expects the toll to bring. Then publishers, indeed, may pay their shareholders better dividends, but even the best-seller writers will be no better off and the serious writers even worse off than now.

Besides, any lending toll, whether paid by readers or ratenayers or out of taxes, must be very expensive to collect and distribute, and the cost must be borne by the funds the country grudges already for art or education. Either the libraries must lose part of their keep or the arts councils some of what they might hope for otherwise. In short, ever public accountability might contrive to disguise it, the toll would be in effect a tax on knowledge or a tax on art or both.

To tax readers or writers for the benefit of publishers and ratenayers is hardly to tax serious readers and serious writers for the benefit of those who publish "what the public wants" is a proposal only publishers and dupes can support. It cannot fall to injure men whose work is indispensable in a civilized land, and worse paid than that of a labourer.

Yours faithfully,
BASIL BUNTING,
Shadingfield,
Wylam,
Northumberland,
December 11.

Funds for the arts

From Mr Keith Lucas

Sir, May I add a special plea to the implicit in your leader headed "A Fair Balance for the Arts".

With my colleagues I have been concerned that in all the urgent current debate about Government funding of the Arts, little has been heard about the plight of the art of film and almost nothing of the kind in the past few years. The grounds of film and television seem particularly to merit consideration.

Mr Jenkins stressed "the incontestable truth that an arts policy is vulnerable unless it has the support of the public". No other arts have ever had so broad a public as film and television.

In a remarkably short time—less than 80 years, the cinema has built up a rich cultural heritage—in the works of Chaplin, Renoir, Griffith, Eisenstein, Kurosawa, and scores of other artists whose works stand comparison with the finest literary or graphic achievements of their time. Yet film and television are vulnerable in a way that no other form is.

Paintings would survive (however well the Government might protect the drama without theatres, literature without publications. But the actual physical matter of film and videotape are peculiarly ephemeral. The great masterworks of cinema can only survive by virtue of constant re-editions, so that the construction of important works produced for television.

Looking to the future, too, as film production becomes economically more hazardous, the efforts of those of us who care cannot be sufficient to "encourage the art of film and television" become constantly more vital, urgent and real, to ensure their survival as independent artistic activities.

There have been encouraging signs that the Government is showing sympathy to the arguments put forward by the Arts Council and others. It seems likely that they will give significant tangible support for the work of the Arts Council. Let us hope that an equal response will be forthcoming for the work of the British Film Institute.

May I add my own urging to your insistence that "the Government would be right not to let its hand fall too heavily on the arts next year".

Yours faithfully,
KEITH LUCAS, Director,
British Film Institute,
81 Dean Street, W1,
December 11.

SOCIAL DEMOCRACY STRENGTHENS IN PORTUGAL

The major Portuguese political parties have now all had their party conferences before the run-up to the elections for the constituent assembly in March. The horizon is not quite as red as it was predicted it would be when General Spínola's replacement by General Gomes seemed to put the country into the hands of the militant left. The challenge of the social democrats within the Socialist Party led by Dr Mario Soares was beaten back at the congress just concluded, and the moderate leaders were confirmed in control. Though the Socialist Party is Marxist in its inspiration and theoretically committed to the supersession of capitalism and private enterprise as is the Irish Labour Party—it is for present wedded to gradualism and democracy and it vehemently opposes communist ambitions and tactics.

The Communist Party, however, hile attacking such "opportunities" by its socialist opponents, so found it politic at its own congress some weeks ago to avoid extremism (indeed it denounces socialism as extremism), to play the dictatorship of the proletariat and to make clear that if gained power it would not wear away small enterprise at stroke. There is good reason for caution by both socialists and communists. The election must

be won in the countryside at least as much as in the industrial areas, and neither can be sure of agrarian support.

The communists, for instance, working hard to create an agricultural labourers' union which they could control, have found that the farm workers want the big estates broken up to provide them with small peasant holdings, not jobs in state-run collectives. The peasantry is just as reactionary about the land it has. It is here that the non-Marxist left wing party, the Popular Democrats, may find its strength, balancing the Marxists' grip on local government by a useful understanding with the Church. While big business is everybody's Aunt Sally, Portugal is still in many ways a land of peasants and petty bourgeois for whom the authoritarian Marxist state has decreasing appeal as events unfold.

Another sign of communist doubts of a sweeping victory in March (there are suggestions that they will not garner more than 15 per cent of the vote despite their two thousand organizers financed, so their opponents allege, by the Russians) is the announced intention of the Portuguese Democratic Movement to contest the election. This party is the ad hoc coalition of all opposition groupings which was allowed to campaign at election time under the Caetano regime. It should therefore now be wound up, as most socialists and liberals have left it. But the communists are still running it and apparently hope that its moderate image may decoy votes away from their indignant opponents.

The centre party, or parties, can now hardly hold meetings without police protection and recently had their Oporto headquarters burned down. The Centreists provide a useful bogey for the other parties—a sort of living testimony to the possibility of counter-coups which all revolutionaries regard as natural and necessary. But they can hope for few seats in the assembly. This is likely to be divided, perhaps in fairly equal measure between the Communists, Socialists and Popular Democrats. In theory they will then draw up a constitution for election in October 1975. But the communists are now insisting that seats must be reserved for the Armed Forces Movement as such—a body in whose leadership of about two hundred the communists exert (as in the Portuguese Democratic Movement) considerable leverage. Communist tactics hardly suggest that "the revolution" is yet comfortably under party management. The Socialist Congress has shown that the moderate left has real strength.

From Mr Michael Hooker

Sir, Since I have been professionally involved in eight historic cathedral appeals, please I may be allowed to answer Mr Carpenter Turner's accusation in your issue of December 14.

I can see nothing "dishonest" in linking the conservation of the stained glass and fabric with the needs of the musical foundation—so long as the promotional literature which is prepared and distributed will be spent. Naturally, press reports tend to emphasize the fabric and, in the case of Canterbury, the matchless glass. No doubt the writers conclude that these are the aspects of particular interest to readers.

From my own experience, I would confess that judgment but I have no evidence that any contractors wish cathedrals to become lifeless monuments, which would surely happen if their distinctive musical tradition and their ministry of welcome were abandoned because of lack of funds.

Yours, etc,
MICHAEL HOOKER,
Managing Director,
Fund Raising Consultants to Educational and other Charities
Campaign Direction,
Station House,
Darkes Lane,
Potters Bar,
Hertfordshire,
December 16.

Clergy stipends

From the Reverend Robert Warren

Sir, The spiritual dimension has been significantly missing from the correspondence about clergy stipends.

In our own church (which is far from unique) giving has increased in the last two years from £3,600 to £9,800. Missionary giving has risen from £400 to £4,600 during the same period; though congregations have increased by less than 20 per cent. We have had no "stewardship campaign", and only regular church-goers have been given systematic financial education, love, etc.) alone explain this situation, and surely the Church Commissioner's contribution to the need to take account of these as well as of the statistics.

However, even where giving is being given every effort of the laity is thwarted. Any gift they make is deducted from the Church Commissioner's contribution to the stipend. My own Parochial Church Council has abolished the Easter offering as a dishonest practice since it is no special gift (as many who give are) and since they are encouraged, not stifled, the giving of the laity.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT WARREN,
18 Hallamgate Road,
Sheffield 10.

Electoral reform

From Miss Enid Lakeman

Anthony Wigram's article (December 11) is very welcome, especially for its valuable table showing the political characteristics of 17 states. This should help to put an end to ill-founded generalizations such as that proportional electoral systems produce unstable governments.

Unfortunately, the article itself contains an extraordinary misstatement: that the single transferable vote in multi-member constituencies is not "designed to introduce the principle of proportionality". If Mr Wigram means that the electoral law does not lay down in so many words, as the Continental party list systems do, that each party shall obtain seats in proportion to votes that is true, but the effect of the system is just that. STV gives proportional representation to the parties with exactly the same accuracy as a list system, provided the number of members elected from a constituency is the same.

The great difference is that STV also gives, with the same degree of accuracy, proportional representation to any other important groups that may exist—left-wing and right-wing, anti- and pro-EC, for the present party leadership and for a change, etc. Each MP owes his seat to the free choice of his constituents, who, in the next election, can either show their confidence in him by giving him their first preference or, as the case may be, replace him by some other man or woman of the same party. That is a point in which a list system like the German one totally fails.

Yours faithfully,
ENID LAKEMAN, Director,
Electoral Reform Society,
6 Chancel Street,
Southwark, SE1.

BED AND BREAKFAST HOUSING

When a family has nowhere to go and their housing authority cannot accommodate them even a hostel or a house waiting to be demolished, the alternatives are for the children to be taken to care or for the family to be temporarily into a cheap bed and breakfast accommodation. A Shelter report on bed and breakfast accommodation, published yesterday, shows councils are having recourse more and more often to the second alternative. A family of four or five may be put in one small room with very unsatisfactory cooking and sanitary facilities, and may have to stay there for months on end, at considerable expense to the ratenayers. Shelter estimate that the national cost of using people in this way will be about £4.5m this year, with the vast part of it falling on London. It seems clear, however, that there is usually more to be done for such an arrangement than for breaking a family up only because of the family's own interests but also because the cost of keeping children in care may be higher still.

The report describes the tribulations that people may suffer from a room reduced by necessity to a few beds and breakfasts. The addition of cheap hotels in big cities is something of a scandal in itself apart from the stresses introduced by the change from permanent to semi-permanent cupation. Understaffed fire departments are still very far from ensuring that every hotel complies even approximately with the Fire Precautions Acts. Space and sanitary standards often fall

short of those laid down in the Housing Acts. Landlords may impose unreasonable restrictions or resort to harassment and sometimes do very comfortably out of their uncontrolled rents. Councils have limited powers to ensure that standards are kept up (and often make too little effort to do so for this purpose being difficult to find).

The chief reason why the number of people living in this way has increased so greatly in the past couple of years is the country's failure to build enough houses. The latest figures, for October, do not indicate that recovery will be rapid. But much of the blame must be taken by the Rent Act of 1974, which extended to furnished accommodation the same controls which had already contributed to the virtual disappearance of the unfurnished rental market.

The Shelter report only partially avoids the philosophy of treating symptoms which lay behind that Act. Clearly the pursuit of the exploiter has reached the point where no solution is to be found in heaping the same controls on the bed and breakfast trade. Apart from anything else, no family of five would want a lifetime's security in one room. The report applies itself to the underlying problem of general shortage and proposes, first, the requisitioning of empty property, and second, a body to repair short-life housing, take over hotels catering exclusively for the homeless, and lease rooms on a short-term basis to councils.

As for requisitioning, it is a desperate resort which would be highly unpopular and, if the safeguards were to be adequate, almost as unwieldy as the compulsory purchase procedures whose delays constitute Shelter's chief ground for making the proposal. The new Housing Emergency Office seems to derive chiefly from a mistrust of housing departments' capacity to do their own jobs. It is often true that councils do not make the fullest use of housing waiting for demolition or rebuilding, and are not well adapted to meeting short-term needs in general, but the disadvantages of a whole new bureaucracy are at first sight formidable.

On all sides in this field the problem of providing accommodation is closely related to the problem of regaining possession. Councils would be readier to cooperate with squatters' groups if they could be sure that when the house is needed they will be able to regain possession (their doubts will have been reinforced by a recent court case). Landlords would be prepared to open up their empty rooms if only they could be sure of reclaiming them at some foreseeable moment. The problem affects not only the homeless, but every newly married couple saving up for a house, and many workers who need to be mobile. A law to make possible a properly safeguarded terminable lease would make available more dwellings overnight than years of work with bricks and mortar.

From Mr P. Mathias

Sir, No one doubts your newspaper's formal right to publish advertisements which are legal and profitable. Today you defend the appearance of the advertisement financed by a "Committee for Justice in the Middle East" (*The Times*, December 11) in a leader about freedom (December 12).

My own moral objection is that you should not posturing to convert all sections of your pages. The point is simple—such advertisements demean *The Times*: they diminish its stature and threaten its reputation.

Yours faithfully,
PETER MATHIAS,
St. Pauls College,
Oxford,
December 12.

From Mr D. A. Franklin

Sir, Out of your own mouths ye are condemning the admission on Saturday that you have refused a second insertion of the advertisement "Shouldn't Britain Come First?" shows up exactly the true nature of that advertisement—and also reveals the shoddiness of your attempt to excuse your pricing it. If the advertisement is improper now, it was improper before, and it is an insult to the intelligence of your readers to try to pretend that you could not forecast the results of displaying it or that somehow it was acceptable the first time but unacceptable later. You cannot honourably defend the charge that in publishing it you have done other than provide publicity for an incitement to racial hatred; if it is not incitement to identify a section of British citizenry and to insinuate—if that is not too weak a word—that they are somehow selling Britain short, then what is?

The fact that the insinuations are a lie is neither here nor there—they have the respectability of a platform

Hambone chorus

From Mr Lionel Abel-Smith

At my preparatory school in the 30's our version was as follows:—
O, Lemina, look at your Uncle Jim;
e's in the duck pond learning how to swim.
First he does the backstroke, then he does the side;
now he's under the water swimming against the tide.

Yours faithfully,
LIONEL ABEL-SMITH,
rivers,
25 Marsh,
Assex.

Closed shop for engineers

From Mr J. D. Sampson

In his letter today (December 13) Mr Denis Sweeney has described

the effect of the closed shop on the engineering profession, and it would be well for a country which depends for its survival on its technological expertise to take note of the situation to which he calls attention.

It is unfortunate that in Britain the distinction between the professional engineer who holds a degree or equivalent qualification and the technician or the craftsman in the public or non-public engineers' team-mind. Professional engineers themselves, however, have always been conscious of the vital role they play in their professional obligations to their employers and to the public. As a result, few have wished to join the grade unions representing the majority of employees in the engineering industry. The public should be alarmed that a combination of aggressive unionism, demo-

ralized employers and shortly, if the Government has its way, a new law, will compel many members of the country's most vital profession, under threat of "fair" dismissal, and against their will, to join one of the largest and most militant trade unions.

Our technological rivals in Europe and elsewhere hold their engineering professions in the highest esteem with the result that it is the ambition of their most brilliant youngsters to join them. Which country has the right idea?

Yours faithfully,
J. D. SAMPSON, General Secretary,
The United Kingdom Association of Professional Engineers,
West Hill House,
West Horsley,
Surrey,
December 13.

Britain and the Middle East

From Mr P. Mathias

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From Mr Y. E. Canavan

Sir, Thank you for the courage you have shown in publishing the Justice for Palestine advertisement. We know only too well how difficult it is to get our point of view across, and can imagine the courage it must have taken, against all the usual pressures, to insert this advertisement.

I am afraid that as long as the press and media in this country in particular, and the West in general, continue to cover the Middle East situation in such a one-sided, biased manner, these expensive advertisements will have to remind the British public that there are two sides to every problem.

Thanking you once again, I am,
Yours sincerely,
Y. E. CANAVAN,
17a Northampton Road,
Croydon, Surrey,
December 12.

From Signor Franco Zeffirelli

Sir, I have no wish to take part in the rather undistinguished Neapolitan comedy that Eduardo De Filippo has written with the collaboration of your Rome correspondent, though it is a mystery to me that such a piece has found space on the front page of your paper. It doesn't add anything to the prestige of *The Times*, I am afraid.

What I feel I have to clarify to your readers, however, is the wonderful contribution received from the actors of the American production of *Saturday, Sunday, Monday*. It was a lovely company, one of the best I've ever worked with, and they poured as much talent and hopes in their work as their English colleagues. They fought like brave soldiers for the play but unfortunately their efforts were in vain, simply because (though the New York production was absolutely identical to the London one) English speakers appreciate De Filippo's kind of theatre and America does not.

It often happens, and vice versa, and De Filippo should know it. He has enough age and experience to have learned by now how to face the unfortunate moments of life with a more sportsmanlike grace.

Yours, etc,
FRANCO ZEFFIRELLI,
Via Appia, Pignatelli 448,
Rome, Italy.

Planning delays

From the President of the Royal Town Planning Institute

Sir, "Planning delay" (leading article, December 6) is a fine emotive phrase. The deceptively simple cases quoted in your correspondence columns as evidence of planning delays are usually much more complex than they seem. In major developments, a period of one or even two years' delay may not be too long when the social, economic and environmental consequences have to be understood and the local, regional and perhaps even national impact assessed. As a democratic nation we require rights of appeal and a full opportunity for citizens and affected bodies to be consulted; as a cultured nation we demand that our developments should be of good quality, should fit sympathetically into their environment and should not damage our architectural heritage. All these processes take time. The true delays that do occur are due to detailed political involve-

ment, shortages of planning staff, shortages of staff for processing appeals, and cumbersome procedures. Delay for those reasons must not be confused with the statutory and administrative processes required to deal with each application equitably and constructively in the interests of the community, which is what local politicians, planners and their colleagues in local government and government are striving to achieve.

We are all looking forward to the Dobry Report, but we must not misunderstand what it is going to achieve. The Institute hopes that it will lead to the speeding up of administrative and political procedures but will not diminish the time and effort spent in achieving quality in the environment by development control means.

Yours sincerely,
SYLVIA LAW, President,
The Royal Town Planning Institute,
26 Portland Place, W1,
December 12.

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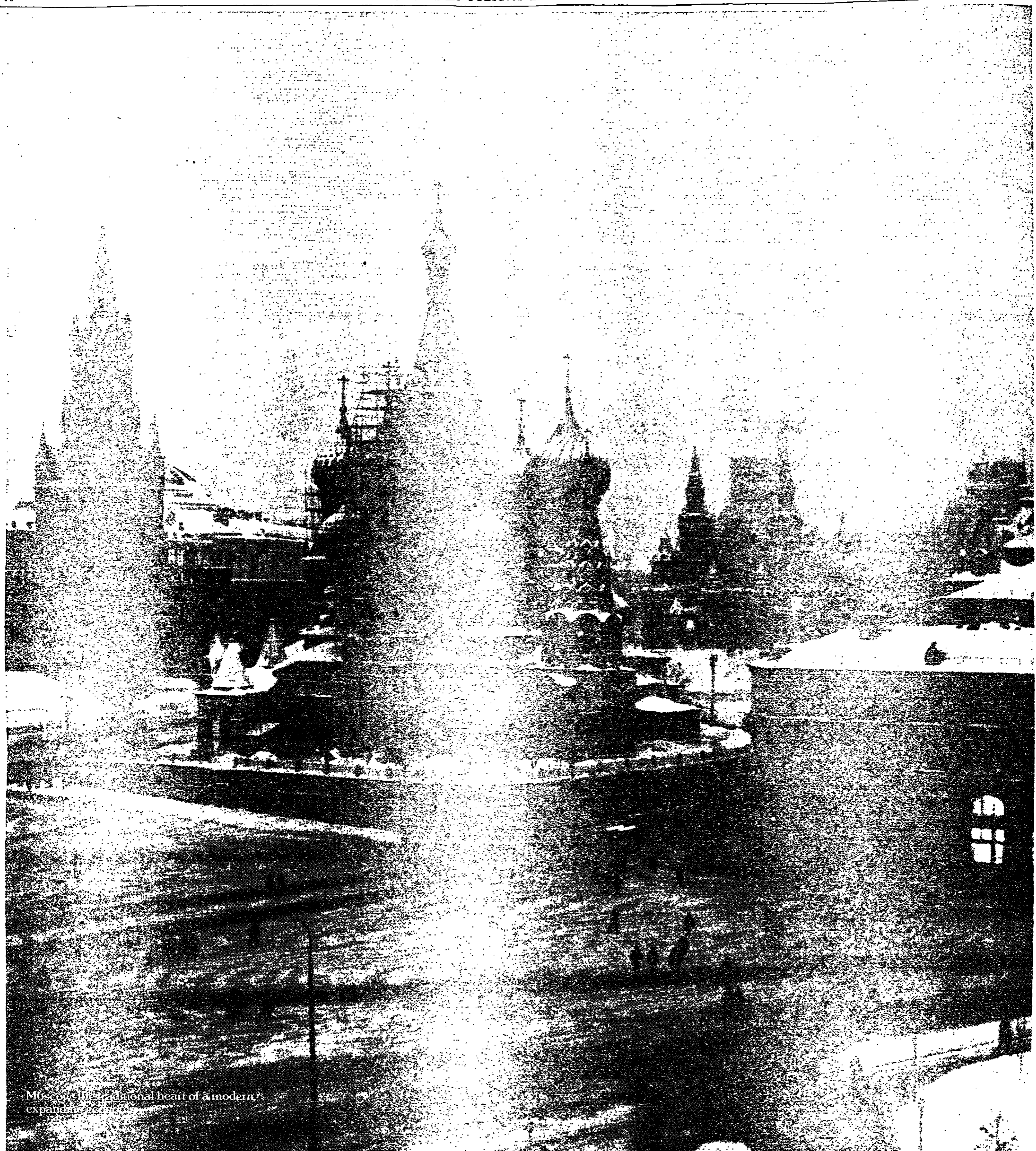
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Yours, etc,
FRANCO ZEFFIRELLI,
Via Appia, Pignatelli 448,
Rome, Italy.



Moscow: the traditional heart of a modern expansion.

If you want to know where to expand overseas, look where Barclays Bank International are opening new offices.

The Soviet Union is opening up to foreign industrialists.

There are now excellent opportunities for internationally minded companies, and this is why Barclays Bank International have set up in Moscow in partnership with Tozer Kemsley & Millbourn (Holdings) Ltd, and Lazard Brothers & Co., Limited, to form a new company: Barclays Tozer Limited. This is the first British financial institution to get representation in the Soviet Union.

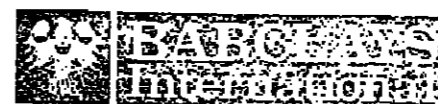
In the next few years Soviet require-

ments in consumer goods are likely to double. With a population exceeding 250 million citizens, spread over the world's largest country, the potential is enormous. And as you can imagine, selling there involves a special kind of knowledge.

With our partners, we in Barclays Bank International have this knowledge and can help you in a number of ways. We have dealt extensively with the major Comecon banks and with the Soviet Foreign Trade Bank. We have established a good relationship with

many of the people you would need to know. And we have unravelled the intricate regulations that concern imports and exports.

If you would like to know more about trading with the Soviet Union, get in touch with the East European Desk of our International Division at 163 Fenchurch Street, London EC3P 3HP. (Telephone: 01-283 8989.)



More offices in more countries than any other bank.

Stock Exchange Prices Strong rise in gilts

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began Dec 9. Dealings End Dec 23. Contango Day, Dec 24. Settlement Day, Jan 7. Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

City Offices Hampton & Son 01-256 7831

Herring Daw Chartered Surveyors 29/28 Southsea Street London W14 2DL Telephone 01-734 8155 City of London-Paris-Sydney-Melbourne

Main table containing stock exchange prices for various categories: BRITISH FUNDS, COMMONWEALTH AND FOREIGN, LOCAL AUTHORITIES, FOREIGN STOCKS, DOLLAR STOCKS, BANKS AND DISCOUNTS, BREWERIES AND DISTILLERS, COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL, FINANCIAL TRUSTS, INSURANCE, INVESTMENT TRUSTS, OIL, PROPERTY, RUBBER, and MISCELLANEOUS. Each section lists company names, share prices, and changes.

Barclays Tseur Limited Representative: Mr H.T. Bennett, Room 166 Hotel National

PLANNING

LOCAL OR NATIONAL CONSTRUCTION SERVICE

Main Co-op board unaware of CIS decision to control Oldham Estate

Maurice Corina, assistant editor... The full board of directors of Co-operative Wholesale Society... decision to take control of Harry Hyams's property...

Cannon Street write-down

Shareholders in Cannon Street Investment, which owned a secondary bank Cannon Street Acceptances... Under a proposed reorganisation scheme...

NOTICE OF INTERNATIONAL INVITATION TO TENDER

CAPACITY INCREASE OF NATURAL GAS COMPRESSOR AND PROCESSING STATIONS (TENDER EBM 71)

The Société Tunisienne de l'Electricité et du Gaz (S.T.E.G.) is about to launch an international call for tender for the supply, construction, testing and commissioning of the equipment...

The date for unsealing the bids is set for the 10th February 1975 at 10 a.m. at the Company's Head Office, 38 rue Kémal Ataturk, Tunis, Tunisia.

MAJEDIE INVESTMENTS LIMITED

At the sixty third Annual General Meeting of Majedie Investments Limited held in London yesterday, the Chairman, Mr. T. B. Barlow referred to his review of the Report and Accounts and said that little had happened during the last month to relieve the depressed state of the Stock Markets...

All-industry output index shows third monthly fall

By Melvyn Westlake... Output in many of Britain's key industries is now unmistakably shown to be either stagnant or falling... The official all-industries output index showed the third consecutive monthly fall in October...

INDUSTRIAL OUTPUT

Table with columns: All Industries, M'tons Total. Rows: 1972 Q1-Q4, 1973 Q1-Q4, 1974 Q1-Q3. Values range from 98.2 to 108.5.

day week many companies were making deliveries out of their stock of finished products... However, stocks are now being rebuilt and the consequent under-statement of output in the third quarter is also thought to have been about 1 per cent.

TI cash bid for Midland Aluminium

By Adrienne Gleeson... Tube Investments yesterday announced a £5.4m cash bid for Midland Aluminium, the Wolverhampton-based manufacturer of aluminium...

Tenneco boosts stake in Albright

By Anthony Rowley... Tenneco International, the American energy production and transmission group, is raising its equity stake in Albright & Wilson...

Sterling improves on fresh demand

Sterling yesterday continued the sharp recovery on the foreign exchange market... The pound's "effective depreciation" rate against 10 key currencies...

Army & Navy site funding

International Caledonian Assets, an associate company of Sir Hugh Fraser's Scottish University Investments group and Amalgamated Investment & Property yesterday announced a £44m funding for the joint development of the Army & Navy Stores site in Victoria Street, London.

US-French gold deal could affect IMF work

From Frank Vogl, Washington, Dec 16... A senior United States Treasury official said in Washington that the agreement between the French and United States Presidents that it would be appropriate for any government which wished to do so to adopt current market prices as the basis of valuation for its gold holdings...

30,000 laid off at VW plants this week will be trebled next month

By David Blake... Car plants in Europe, America and Australia yesterday announced short-time work and layoffs as the industry's world slump grew deeper... In the most striking development Volkswagen laid off 30,000 of its total work force of 110,000 until the end of this week...

Short-time for 3,000 likely at Lucas

By Clifford Webb... Short-time working for some 3,000 Lucas group employees in its Birmingham factories will be announced immediately after the Christmas holidays...

EEC draft outlines bankruptcy law changes

Far-reaching implications of the draft EEC Convention on bankruptcy and insolvency are highlighted in a consultative document prepared by a Government-sponsored committee, published today... Foreign courts would also be empowered to declare individuals in Britain bankrupt and to administer the bankruptcy under their own law.

Ford prices up by 8.8pc

The prices of Ford cars, trucks and tractors are going up by an average of 8.8 per cent from midnight tonight... This is the fourth price increase in a year and follows a similar move by British Leyland four days ago.

Rough diamonds will cost more

De Beers Central Selling Organisation is increasing the price of rough gem diamonds by an overall 1.55 per cent on January 13... The report concludes that the EEC scheme, "if practicable, must be highly desirable".

Reliant to cut production

The Midlands-based Reliant motor company is to cut production of its top-selling Scimitar GTE sports car... Reliant has been making about 50 Scimitars a week. A spokesman said that waiting lists had almost disappeared.

How the markets moved

Table with columns: Rises, Falls, On other pages. Lists various market movements and page references.

THE POUND

Table with columns: Bank, Bank. Lists exchange rates for various countries like Australia, Austria, Belgium, etc.

FT index: 156.2 +4.0 The Times index: 62.67 +1.63

The British Bank of the Middle East Increase in capital. The British Bank of the Middle East announces that its authorised capital has been increased to £15 million...

The British Bank of the Middle East. Increase in capital. The British Bank of the Middle East announces that its authorised capital has been increased to £15 million... A Member of The Hongkong Bank Group

French drug groups sued by Wellcome for breach of patents

By Malcolm Brown
One of Britain's leading drug groups is suing two French companies for alleged patent infringements.
The Wellcome Foundation confirmed yesterday that it had started legal proceedings against Laboratoires Reaching and Centre de Recherche Biologique Viabac.
Wellcome alleges infringement of the group's French patent on trimethoprim, a drug widely used medically and veterinarily for anti-bacterial purposes.
Wellcome took out a process patent on the drug in France in 1958. This runs until 1978. The

group said yesterday that the French companies were putting the drug to veterinary use.
Trimethoprim was at the centre of separate but significant legal proceedings in Britain earlier this year when Wellcome applied for and was granted a four-year extension of its British patents.
The company had applied for an extension to its 16-year patent on the benzyl pyrimidines, the principal one of which is trimethoprim.
The High Court granted the extension under section 23 of the Patents Act 1949, which allows for an extension of patent life on the ground of inadequate remuneration.

\$22m Oman contract for Hawkers

Hawker Siddeley Power Engineering is to build 19 diesel power stations in Oman under a contract worth more than \$22m. According to the company, this is the biggest contract ever received by a British company for equipment of this type.
Seven Hawker Siddeley companies will be involved in the contract—supplying and erecting the stations and distribution networks. The order has been placed by the Sultanate's Ministry of Communications and Public Services.
Equipment will be delivered between next March and the end of 1976, and the contract should be completed in the spring of 1978.
Hawker Siddeley Power Engineering's design centre at Burton on the Wolds, Leicestershire, will coordinate the project and provide the construction and installation teams.

Joint float discussions inconclusive

Frankfurt, Dec 16.—Finance ministers and Central Bank governors of the European joint float member states—Germany, Benelux, Denmark, Norway and Sweden—took no decision and issued no communiqué after their weekend meeting here, a federal bank spokesman said today.
Earlier he had referred to remarks made by Dr Hans Apel, the finance minister, in a German television interview that the aim of these meetings was to allow float members to come together from time to time to discuss monetary problems.
In particular they are intended to ensure that the economic policies of members are in harmony, Dr Apel said. If inflation among the member states diverges too much this would have consequences for the grouping.—Reuter.

Oil emirates will open talks on full takeover

By Edward Townsend
The United Arab Emirates (UAE) are to begin talks in the new year with western oil companies on the complete takeover of oil concessions.
Mr Mans Al-Otaiba, the Abu Dhabi oil minister, said in London yesterday that the present concessionaires would not be granted special discounts off the basic market price; they would be offered a management fee strictly related to the value of services they provided.
The move was expected after the Saudi Arabian decision to bring the Aramco consortium under 100 per cent government control.
The state takeover effectively brought to an end an international oil company dominance over production which has persisted for almost 50 years in the Middle East.
Operating companies within the UAE are British Petroleum, CIE Française des pétroles, Royal Dutch Shell, Mobil, Exxon, the Japanese Petroleum Corporation and other Japanese interests. They hold a 40 per cent share, with government interests totalling 60 per cent.
Mr Otaiba, in London this week for preliminary talks with the oil companies, said that an agreement on state control would also have to include provisions for the companies' future exploration and development activities.

Shipbuilders ready to cooperate despite nationalization doubts

By David Young
Britain's shipbuilders said yesterday they opposed state involvement in the industry but they were prepared to make nationalization work if it became inevitable.
The Shipbuilders and Repairers National Association has, however, told the Government that there is no way in which it can support nationalization of the ship-repairing industry.
The association is now having discussions with the Department of Industry on nationalization of the shipbuilding side but its report, published yesterday, says the Government has not put forward any sort of case for state ownership.
On shipbuilding the association says it does not consider nationalization to be the best way of promoting greater prosperity and efficiency within the industry although it would be prepared to make it work.

However, ship-repairing was an entirely different matter. It was small, but highly important as an employer in the areas where ship-repairers operated.
Shipowners, both British and foreign, had expressed concern over the proposed nationalization of the ship-repairing industry. They feared that by the very nature of nationalization the close contact between repairer and shipowner would be destroyed.
Peter Hill writes: Britain's shipbuilding output this year is not expected to rise much above one million tons gross despite hopes that output would move up from the plateau where it has rested for some 879,000 tons gross were completed at the end of the third quarter and around 500,000 tons gross of tonnage are scheduled to be delivered by the year end but it now seems most unlikely that much more than 200,000 tons will be completed.

Minister condemns GM Holden cutback

From Herbert Mishaal Melbourne, Dec 16
A sharp attack on General Motors Holden, the Australian-based car manufacturing company, has been made today by Mr K. E. Enderby, federal minister for manufacturing industry, after an announcement by the company that it proposed to dismiss 5,000 workers early next month.
The company said it had been carrying too many workers for some time in the face of declining sales and continuing imports of foreign-made cars which showed no signs of reduction.
Mr Enderby called this decision "a cruel, insensitive arrogant one, undoubtedly emanating from the company's headquarters in the United States."
"It is particularly harsh in view of the company's failure to make appropriate provision for redundancy compensation to those losing their jobs. This contrasts vividly with the generous sympathetic attitude shown by the British Leyland Motor Corporation when it retrenched about 2,000 people from its Zetland plant, near Sydney."
"I am very angry about this development. We have taken the very steps suggested by GMH to reduce imports of Japanese cars and they publicly praised us for doing so. Now they have dealt us this sudden blow."

From Mr E. G. Wood
Sir, You kindly published my letter in February, 1973, pointing out that the census of production data revealed the decline in productivity in the car industry as far back as 1968. Perhaps those critics who howled me down as an unpatriotic prophet of disaster will now heed the harsh realities revealed by the figures.
In 1963, after paying out each £1 of wage/salary the vehicle industry had 81p left over to cover overhead expenses and profit. By 1968 this figure had fallen to 75p; in 1970 to 49p; and in 1971 to 36p. Thus, the industry has been paying out so much in wages and salaries that it could not afford to finance its own investment programme.
Instead of expecting other people to pay for their investment while they continue to enjoy wages and salaries roughly 25 per cent above the national average, these people should put their own house in order either by increasing their output and sales to generate their high wages, or by cutting their payroll until the added value per £1 of wage/salary comes more in line with the national average of 192.
The plain truth is that you cannot share out what doesn't exist. The sooner that the

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Harsh realities of decline in car industry productivity

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The plain truth is that you cannot share out what doesn't exist. The sooner that the

motor vehicle industry faces up to this fact the sooner we shall be on the road to real prosperity.
Yours sincerely,
E. G. WOOD,
Director,
Sheffield Polytechnic,
Centre for Innovation and Productivity,
Halfords House,
16 Fitzalan Square,
Sheffield,
December 12.

Safeguards of final pay pension schemes

From Mr J. K. Lovell
Sir, Surely Mr F. J. S. Brool is wrong in his view about the injustices of "final pay" pension schemes (December 3)? It is now common practice to incorporate the following allowable definition of pensionable emoluments in such pension arrangements:
"Pensionable salary means the higher of:
(a) A member's highest salary for any one of the five years before normal retirement or retirement or leaving the service whichever is the earliest; or
(b) The highest yearly average of the member's salary for a three or more consecutive years ending not earlier than 10 years before normal retirement or retirement or leaving the service whichever is the earliest but so that for the purposes of this definition the salary for a year except the last before the date of calculation shall be increased in proportion to an increase in the Index of Retail Prices from the last day of the year up to the date of calculation."
With indexing, these provisions give a very substantial safeguard against the type situation he describes for employees whose earning power may lessen as they grow older.
Yours faithfully,
J. K. LOVELL,
Finance Secretary and Accountant,
University College London,
Gower Street, WC1.

Problems of employing staff

From Mr Arnold Lever
Sir, Mr Donald Cropper's authoritative letter (November 15) does not go far enough. As a small business we are not interested in temporary staff who are recognized to be the natural diet of his private agencies.
Our interest is in permanent staff, but we are disgusted by the excessive charges for the minimal "service" of introducing seemingly unvetted (and frequently unsatisfactory) applicants for clerical and commercial vacancies. The charges demanded are based on a

year's salary, even if the applicant leaves after a few weeks. We welcome the efforts being made to modernize the image of the state employment service, nevertheless we are putting forward a request to our British Fabric Federation to organize a non-profit-making agency to cover the textile trade. We wonder whether other sections of industry should not follow suit?
Yours faithfully,
ARNOLD LEVER,
Arnold Lever (London) Limited,
E-15 Little Titchfield Street,
London W1.

Floored boards

From Mr Matthew J. Thompson
Sir, I was disturbed to see your Diary note today on the London Stock Exchange: "The strength of the floor has been reduced 25 per cent in the past few months." Could this be why the bottom has fallen out of the market?
I beg to remain your most obedient servant,
MATTHEW J. THOMPSON,
St Andrews Cottage,
Much Hadham, Herts.

Gifts tax and party political donations

From Mr Philip Watkins
Sir, The provisions of the Finance Bill published December 10 will ensure that donations by an individual to a political party will, if they exceed the levels laid down in the Bill, attract liability to Capital Transfer Tax, more commonly known as Gifts Tax.
I cannot believe this will be helpful to the democratic process in this country. Experience, both here and in the United States in recent years, has surely shown that, pending the conclusions of the committee shortly

to be appointed by Parliament to consider the long-term financing of political parties, the type of giving to be encouraged is that which is voluntarily made by individuals, rather than enforced, often against the wishes of the donors, from trades unions or corporate bodies.
The provisions of the Bill, as they stand, will discourage such personal and voluntary giving.
May I ask the Chancellor to accept an amendment to the Bill designed to extend to all political parties, including his own, the same exemption which is granted to charitable bodies:

namely, that donations for political purposes up to a specific upper level should also be exempt from liability to the tax.
The financial health of political parties is essential if they are to contribute effectively to our democratic system. Such an amendment would, I believe, be of considerable help towards that health.
Yours truly,
PHILIP WATKINS,
Honorary Treasurer,
The Liberal Party,
7 Exchange Court,
Strand,
London, WC2.

Central security body is planned by NCC

A central reference body is planned by the National Computing Centre which will be concerned with procedures and standards for all aspects of computer security.
This body will promote the principles of risk management in computer-based systems, and will aim to produce two manuals of practice in computer security. One manual will be for professional computing staff, and the other for general management.
These moves follow recommendations made by a National Study Group on the security of computer-based systems, whose report, *Where next for computer security?* has just been published by the NCC at £4.60.
The book, which is aimed primarily at computer professionals and users, evaluates the main security techniques in cur-

data-capture centres by numeric keyboard terminals attached to an ordinary telephone.
Mr Brian Chorlton, managing director of Management Dynamics, said that his group's parent organization, Greyhound Computer Corporation, is finalising an agreement with General Computer Services covering the marketing of the service.
GTE expands software
Expansion in the field of software packages is planned by GTE Information Systems, the United Kingdom subsidiary of General Telephone and Electronics Corporation.
Among the packages being marketed are Score, a Cobol program generator and information retrieval system which is in use with Shell Petroleum; and Intercom, a

teleprocessing monitor which has been installed in five of Imperial Chemical Industries' computer centres.
COM extension
Eurocom Data, the computer-output-to-microfilm (COM) company which is owned jointly by National Westminster Bank and the United States National Bank of Oregon, is to expand its European operations by opening new branches in Germany and Sweden.
This was announced by Mr Gerald Pickering, deputy general manager of National Westminster's related banking services division, at the opening of Eurocom's third United Kingdom branch, at Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire.
Kenneth Owen

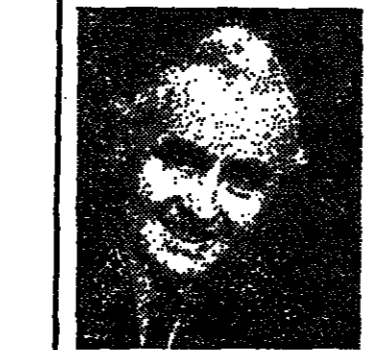
160 redundancies at Singer of Clydebank
A world-wide fall in demand for industrial sewing machines has resulted in 160 workers at the Singer sewing machine plant at Clydebank being made redundant.
Union representatives have been expecting a redundancy programme for some time. The company employs 5,400 at Clydebank.

Penguins to cut staff and book titles

Penguin Books has announced a 20 per cent cutback in its new book programme for 1975 as well as 33 redundancies, despite worldwide sales this year exceeding 40 million for the first time.
Trade unions involved at Penguin's headquarters in West London have objected to the redundancies and will have a meeting with the management in the coming week.
A spokesman for the company said the redundancies and the cutback in new titles were designed to strengthen its position in 1975. Emphasis will be on the reprint side, but 450 new titles were envisaged over three years.

ihp British ball and roller bearings

Profits Increased... Borrowings Reduced... Prospects Good...



RHP Chairman, Mr G W Barlow, has reported to shareholders that the company's performance has been the best since the merger. Profit before tax in the 52 weeks to 27 September, 1974, increased to £2,811,000 compared with £812,000 in the previous year and Mr Barlow expects the profit improvement to continue.
The ordinary dividend has been increased from the 13% paid in the past two

years to the 17% rate last paid for 1970/71.
Over £1.9 million was spent during the year on the capital investment programme to improve profitability and efficiency, and it is expected that a further £2.5 million will be spent this year. Despite this heavy investment programme and rapid inflation, borrowings were reduced by over £3 million in the last financial year which was a considerable achievement.
The substantial reduction in borrowings, accompanied by a £1.4 million reduction in stocks, led to an improvement in liquidity and there are adequate cash resources to meet foreseeable future needs.
The UK divisions continued to produce improved results throughout the year, and the performance of the overseas subsidiaries was excellent.

Exports increased from £8.9 million to £12.1 million.
Mr Barlow's report concludes: "Ball and roller bearings are essential for modern life and our products are required for the maintenance of a wide range of industrial, transport and military equipment in many countries. We are offsetting the slow down in certain sectors by additional activity on other bearing ranges where we can excel against world competition. As a result, our factories are currently well loaded."
"The Company is in a stronger position than ever before and despite inflation and general economic uncertainties I believe we shall continue to improve our performance."

Results for the 52 weeks to 27th September 1974

	1974	1973
Trading Results	£000	£000
Sales	52,110	46,982
Pre-Tax Profit	2,811	812
Profit Available for Ordinary Dividends	1,707	1,044
Ordinary Dividends	504 (17½%)	375 (13%)
Balance Sheet	£m	£m
Fixed Assets	14.8	15.1
Current Assets—Stocks	15.3	16.7
—Debtors	11.1	10.3
—Creditors	(8.2)	(8.0)
—(Short-Term Borrowings)	(3.0)	(5.3)
Net Current Assets	15.2	13.7
	30.0	28.8
Financed by: Shareholders Funds	20.2	19.0
Long-Term Borrowings	8.0	8.8
Deferred Tax, etc	1.8	1.0
	9.8	9.8
	30.0	28.8

Ransome Hoffmann Pollard Limited

Copies of the Report and Accounts are available from the Secretary, P.O. Box 7, Chesham, Essex.

Joseph Lucas (Industries) Ltd.

An important opportunity for new business

The year 1973/74 was characterised by two major events—the three-day week and the energy crisis. These events simply accelerated an already high rate of inflation which has now reached crisis proportions, authoritatively described as the worst situation since the War. The task facing the Government is clearly formidable and its actions and the subsequent out-turn of events must have important implications for our business in the United Kingdom. Overseas we are similarly faced with a high rate of inflation of varying degrees and the continuing effect of the oil situation.

There is a lower demand for cars in the United Kingdom and in many overseas markets but the high price of oil has presented a new and important situation. The cost of oil is a decisive factor in the comparative economics of the petrol and diesel engines. The enormous increase in the price of fuel places the advantage clearly with the diesel engine. As the principal supplier of fuel injection and electrical equipment for diesel engines—not only in the United Kingdom but in many other parts of the world—we are faced with an unprecedented opportunity for new business. In other fields we can also improve our position, partly from meeting new requirements, but also from increasing our share of existing business—which is particularly true of our European operations.

All our overseas companies, in many parts of the world, have maintained a solid build-up of business over a number of years and we expect this growth to continue this year.

We do not underestimate the present economic difficulties but we do not feel overpowered by the prevailing atmosphere of gloom and it is therefore in a mood of sober confidence that we face the current difficulties as well as the important opportunities that we shall seize.

	1974	1973
Sales—United Kingdom	£m 286.7	£m 269.4
—Overseas	166.1	129.8
	452.8	399.2
Surplus on trading	19.0	26.8
Profit before taxation	17.6	26.7**
Taxation	8.0	9.5
Profit after taxation	9.6	17.2

**Includes £1.8 million against Rolls-Royce Ltd. debt no longer required.

At the Company's Annual General Meeting held in Birmingham on December 16th 1974 shareholders approved the following special Resolution: That, subject to the approval of the Department of Trade, the name of the Company be changed with effect from 1st January 1975 to Lucas Industries Limited.

The above are extracts from the Company's Report and Accounts. Copies are available on request to Joseph Lucas Ltd., Public Relations Department, Great King Street, Birmingham B19 2XF.

Barclays Towner Limited Representative: Mr H.T. Bennett Room

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

America fills some gaps for Hanson

Survival is the game, then in Trust looks better than many with a relative balance sheet due month and cash of around £18.6m. The 25 per cent increase in profits to £10.4m some soft spots which likely to remain in 1975. It is half to £2m; while de- prestige facing bricks, it is spread over 5 years and is liable to cut major cutbacks in spending. And being £539,000 loss in the profit in the second half written down to book value, Hanson believe this is a, but faces possibly a 5 per cent cut in the next year to around the 90 mark.



Mr James Hanson, chairman of Hanson Trust. Cash of £22m underpins a market worth of £18.6m.

running then has to be done by the United fish products group, Sea- which brought in about profit for nine months spans market in the year. Some help will from the liquidity surplus brought in £718,000 last a net interest received— of course further acqui- is made. A p/e ratio and yield of 12 per cent the share at 59 are un- ratings but the shares held; Hanson took right precautions a year or next year's storms.

1973-74 (1972-73)
£71.1m (£51.7m)
£10.4m (£8.25m)
16.4p (13.9p)
net gross 7.35p (6.55p)

King up pieces

ional Westminster is to .6 per cent of the record Cannon Street Invest- and takes on, rather than up, the remnants of the g business for a nominal Holders of the £4.2m convertible loan stock they came off none all with £1.47m nominal, 4 per cent, of the new but the clear message neither they nor any of their unsecured creditors have recovered a penny a liquidation. And on basis shareholders can themselves lucky to up with 10 per cent of new capital—effectively them one share for every evily held.

While, a putative value e shares looks to be any- guess. Policy from now ill be concentrated on ping the miscellaneous ted activities but there's up on capital red- here, 1975 forecasts ted understandably out at this while it is as well to ber that there is still net of some £6m—£15.3m —to service. short, given shareholders' geared, annual, particu- with net worth includ- £4.1m of goodwill and d investments valued at as of October 31: ing for the subsequent fall leaves net worth ound £2m. That may not a fair reflection of able value, but with st's prior ranking in any ng up in respect of its nominal of new capital, shareholders are going to continue to sweat.

Tubes/Midland

Buying market share

Midland Aluminium is being aggy about the extent of the damage done by its venture into Europe, but is strongly of the opinion that shareholders and the market will be disappointed with the results for the half year to end-September, which compare with a pre-tax total of £1.08m last time. The balance sheet for the year to end-March revealed the group to be relatively low-gear; the gas heat- ing market has picked up strongly after something of a slump mid-summer; and although the houseware side is doing less well than previously, it by no means makes for a disaster situation. Under these circumstances the group might have been expected to ride out testing problems overseas, even though the initial £258,000 consideration for the purchase of an 80 per cent stake in Interdomo's equity was due to be supplemented by subscription of an additional £300,000 plus in new equity during 1974. The outcome goes to prove that little companies can not afford to make mistakes in the current climate, otherwise they run into serious trouble or are picked off cheaply by the giants.

As for Tubes, assuming that there is no reference to the Monopolies Commission, it will have purchased itself for what is, in the context of its own balance sheet, mere chicken- feed, a very large stake in two important markets. Midland has an estimated one-third share of the market for gas boilers— which is bound to thrive given the relative cheapness of this fuel—and some 60 per cent of the market for non-stick pans. Neither are likely to be major money spinners in the short term; both should produce a handsome return on the medium-term view which Tubes is taking.

Albright & Wilson

Tenneco reaps some reward

Albright & Wilson shareholders cannot fairly be resentful about the terms on which Tenneco is converting its loan stock into equity. Tenneco bought into Albright after the unhappy adventure in Newfoundland had brought the group's profits down sharply, along with the share price. Tenneco paid a relatively generous 70p a share for the 10 per cent equity stake it acquired around 1970 and it was no sur-

prise that it negotiated a conversion price of 32p on the £17.5m of convertible loan stock it subscribed, on a coupon of 5 per cent, the following year. The American group was about the only big financial backer Albright could find then. That the share price is now back up to 36p (after bumping along around 20p through the bull market) is thanks to Tenneco's backing and a fortuitous rise in world phosphate prices, for the Long Harbour plant has yet to prove itself.

The fully diluted historic p/e of over 6 on the conversion price is in any case generous enough by present chemical sector standards. True, Tenneco obviously gains from exchanging a 5 per cent running yield on the loan stocks for an implied gross yield of over 11 per cent on equity at the conversion price. But though Albright would now probably have to pay nearer 15 per cent than 5 per cent on a loan stock its low gearing (ex conversion) and the cash position probably render such a deal a less attractive proposition at this stage.

Martin the Newsagent Christmas spending

Some £110,000 of Martin's full year profits gain of £126,000 was made in the first six months of the year, despite the fact that sales jumped by 42 per cent in the second half, against a rise of just 13 per cent at the interim stage. With margins in the final six months rising from 5.3 per cent to 3.8 per cent, the results give some indication of the sort of inflationary crosses the retailers have had to bear in the wake of last May's enforced gross margin reduction. But, unlike many others, Martin has survived a period relatively unscathed, and, indeed, appears to have reduced margins by rather more than necessary in order to get volume increases.

Martin has evidently gained from the buoyant trend in retail sales discernible from July onwards. Most of last year's expansion in the selling area was completed by the interim stage, and, looking at the group's sales mix, substantial increases in cover prices and tobacco products suggest that the inflation element alone in group sales is running at an annual rate of around a third across the board.

Nevertheless, a gain of over two-fifths in the final six months, and reports of that accelerating to 55 per cent over the past few weeks, points to some strong volume growth in front of Christmas, while a forecast of higher interim profits this time shows that the group is recovering from the once and for all squeeze on gross margins. But no retailer is prepared to stick its neck out about spending trends next year, although Martin, whose dependence on high-margin, luxury or semi-luxury merchandise is less than that of say, W. H. Smith is feeling happy enough to maintain its high rate of physical expansion within the confines of cash flow. With the shares unchanged at 56p yesterday a fully diluted p/e ratio of just under 4 and a yield of 91 per cent look less vulnerable than many in the sector.

Final: 1973-74 (1972-73)
Capitalisation £2.75m
£30.3m (£23.9m)
Pre-tax profits £1.51m (£1.38m)
Earnings per share 14.1p (15.1p)
Dividend gross 5.45p (4.85p)
*Excluding VAT

Boots pumps 1.2 million gallons of effluent, the waste from pharmaceutical manufacture, from its two Nottingham factories every working day. Until now it has cost them £50,000 a year for local authority's sewage works to cope with it.

The Severn-Trent Water Authority, one of the 10 newly created giant undertakings that now look after everything to do with water resources and treatment in England and Wales, has in initial consultations told the company that the charge next year ought to go up 500 per cent to £250,000.

Boots, like every other industry coping with many inflationary pressures while strait-jacketed by the Price Commission or Mags, displays a very predictable reaction. Dr Raymond Grafton, their safety and environment officer, said: "This is not the biggest item in our budget, but it is significant. We can't just accept this enormous increase. Naturally we are protesting most strongly."

This basic scenario, with a number of variations is being played out in many other places as water authorities near the year-end point of decision on next year's charges. It reflects the fact that, after being in business for less than a year, the new water undertakings are running into rough financial waters.

The deeper the new authorities have gone into the affairs of the 1,600 authorities they replaced, the more the bills have mounted. Total, national debt alone is £2,500m, taking in water supply, sewerage, sewage disposal, the work of the river boards and the rest of the hydrological cycle.

Combined turnover of the water authorities is £600m a year. Capital outlay this year is around £400m. An Iranian loan for that amount has just been taken up.

It is questionable whether

they will get Whitehall permission for all that, and to spend next year, but if the water authorities had their way the loan burden—with its present high cost of servicing—would rise substantially.

For the new authorities appear to have been shattered by the way some local authorities were content to put off needed sewerage work, while still pressing on with housing schemes and industrial expansion. Schemes like this in future are likely to be held up by a virtual sewer or services moratorium.

The effects of some local authorities—but by no means all—following that old political maxim of there being no votes in raising rates are now seen to be coming home to roost.

Increased wage payments and inflation of general costs are also hitting the water authorities as much as any other industry.

In the past year, too, the disappearance of the rate support grant has geared up the water bills, a situation worsened in some areas—especially Wales, by there having been hitherto various masked subsidies from general rating funds.

It has all brought a note almost of desperation into some of the informal discussions on next year's charges now going on within the water authorities. On one hand, it is claimed nationally that increased charges—water supply and effluent processing—coming through could generally vary from 25 per cent to 60 per cent. The lower increases should be seen in London supply area, for instance, because they have good existing facilities.

At local level the picture is, to say the least, more varied. The Welsh Water Development Authority, for instance, plans to equalize rates for water supply next year despite

Companies face higher bills for treating effluent in the wake of water authority reorganization

current official recommendations that such measures should be phased in over at least two years from last April's inauguration of the new authorities.

This follows some steep rises in the current year which, in Anglesey for instance, went to a 100 per cent increase. Local Confederation of British Industry officials have been worried about industrial effects from this alone, especially on big water users like textile companies.

One Welsh textile company's bill jumped from an annual £12 to £456. Equalization would in fact bring down water charges in rural areas, but a lot of city and suburban bills could double. Wales—with historic debts of £178m and another £87m already committed over the next five years—has still to quantify economic costs for treatment of industrial effluent.

For most industrialists this rather than water supply looks like being the high-cost factor. So much evidence was mounting of many water authorities wanting to hoist charges sharply next year for effluent processing, with a 500 per cent jump

by no means unusual, that the CBI started investigating effects on industrial costings.

While bigger companies, if they have to, can arguably absorb such escalations, the scale of increase in effluent charges could be critical for some medium-sized and smaller enterprises. The difference between survival and closure could especially become a real issue for companies in engineering, in leather processing, in plating and in textile dyeing.

Mr Peter Malcolm, assistant regional secretary at the West Midlands CBI, said: "We are still at the consultative stage with the water authority, but it is clear there could be very serious effects, for instance, for the East Midlands textile companies. In the West Midlands there is grave concern at the prospect of increased charges."

A survey of textile dyeing companies, heavily concentrated in the Leicester-Nottingham area has shown charges could rise an average 500 per cent, with some companies paying more than that. A typical 200-employee dyeing company will currently be paying around £3,600 a year for effluent processing. A jump to £18,000 in one year could in some cases represent a full 2 per cent of turnover.

Although the Severn-Trent authority at first appeared to want to bring in such swingeing increases in 1975, Business News was subsequently told "in some cases, to recover the cost of effluent treatment in certain areas where charges are lifted, we should need to make 500 per cent increases. This would obviously be undesirable. Discussions are continuing on the means of phasing the increases. No formal applications for charges have been made."

Severn-Trent make the point that present charges are grossly below cost, in some areas—as at Telford new town—there being total subsidy from the general

rates. Moreover, in "many cases", they say, charges have not been reviewed for the past two to four years.

Unlike the Welsh authority, Severn-Trent have now decided to equalize water supply charges over five years with a 20 per cent annual maximum. Whatever route each water authority takes to try to claw its way back to financial stability, it is obviously going to be a tricky climb. The Welsh, for example, have taken counsel's opinion on whether they are entitled to surcharge all the water they export.

Water recycling, until now hardly an economic proposition, could become a serious option for many companies. W. Cannock, a Birmingham company which is a giant in producing equipment in this field, regards it as a developing market medium term.

Equalization of charges could prove an even bumper ride than this appears at the moment, the Jukes Committee, which originally recommended a two year phasing for equalization, is apparently likely to put out a new view, if it is agreed by the Secretary of State, recommending that rather than pursuing equalization at the present time, authorities should consider covering costs of specific schemes in the immediate area benefiting from it.

At some point, the Department will have to face the question of whether to opt for the traditional last resort with a nationalized industry and write off all or part of the historical debt.

More than one water authority has said in private that this is the only way for their finances to begin to make sense. Alternatively Wales, at least, arguably has a case for an interim subsidy.

Derek Harris

Vital measures jeopardized by a sluggish US Congress

The United States Congress, often a sluggish, overly ponderous legislative body, now threatens to strike a severe blow at the prospects of a brighter future for a world at present beset by the gravest economic dislocation seen in four decades.

Through a display of ineptitude and lack of a sense of urgency, Congress appears to be failing the task of enacting vital legislation, Senator Robert Byrd, one of the most powerful Democrats on Capitol Hill, candidly admits that it is still uncertain whether even the single most important Bill before Congress, the Tax Reform Bill, will be passed. However, the Bill's chances have been improved by an overwhelming Senate vote last Friday.

The ninety-third Congress is scheduled to end around December 21 and time pressures are certain to bring death to most Bills pending. Bills that fail to be enacted this year will have to be introduced as entirely new pieces of legislation in the ninety-fourth Congress.

March of the next couple of months of the new legislative session will be devoted to House of Representatives and Senate organizational problems and thus, Bills not passed now, will take at least several months to become law, with the delays in some cases having severe and costly consequences.

Bills dealing with these matters being passed this year are crucial. The impact of Congress's inaction here and on other budget measures will be a much heavier dose of inflation for the economy than the Administration desires.

Wilbur Mills, the once powerful chairman of the House ways and means committee, has introduced a reduced version of his earlier tax reform Bill late last month, with the hope that by making it less complex it would stand a greater chance of passage before the session ends. The Bill includes significant tax relief for lower income groups.

But the Bill, because of time shortage, has now been killed by the Senate Rules Committee, although parts of it may be added to other Bills. The tax Bill's chances have also been sharply reduced by the swift decline in Mr. Mills's influence, following his recent involvement in a scandal.

The downfall of the Arkansas Democrat, who is recovering from his folly by a sojourn in hospital, leaves Congress without one of its most able experts at rushing legislation through, and this could endanger several Bills now pending.

A Bill that has not even the faintest chance of passage is to extend the existing ban on United States citizens owning gold beyond December 31. This piece of legislation, proposed by Henry Gonzalez, chairman of the House subcommittee on international commerce, is keenly supported by Dr Arthur Burns, chairman of the Federal Reserve.

Senator Edward Brooke, a Republican from Massachusetts, has proposed legislation to repeal resale price maintenance laws, which he claims will save consumers about \$2,000m a year. This Bill, however, is just not high up enough on Congress's priority list to get enacted in the few remaining days of the current session.

More than 30 assorted pieces of energy legislation are pending and nearly all of them will have to be reintroduced next year. Senator Henry Jackson, Washington state Democrat, has just introduced a standby energy emergency Bill that would give the President the power to impose mandatory controls on domestic oil consumption and all imports.

This Bill has broad support and may just manage to get through Congress, but President Ford said in a December 10 letter to Senator Jackson that he could not support the Bill in its present form. A series of amendments will have to be made to ensure that the Bill does not get vetoed by the President and time is swiftly running out.

Some sort of legislation dealing with unemployment appears assured, but even at this late date its final shape remains uncertain.

The task of getting a Bill through is going to test the skills of Al Ulman, Democrat from Oregon, who is acting chairman of the ways and means committee. He has sponsored an emergency unemployment programme and will have to work flat out in the next few days if a Bill dealing adequately with both public service jobs and increased unemployment benefits is to get through both Houses of Congress.



Representative Wilbur Mills, his resignation as chairman of the House ways and means committee after a scandal could endanger several pending Bills; his own tax reform proposals were killed through lack of time.

Finally, and most importantly, there is the Trade Reform Bill, which has been before Congress for more than 20 months and whose fate remains uncertain. The AFL-CIO trade union organization has increased its efforts to rally opposition to the Bill on the argument that trade liberalization will add to American unemployment.

The Administration wants the trade Bill passed more than any other piece of legislation. The Bill, with its provisions covering Soviet trade, could enhance the prospects for East-West détente if passed. Failure to enact the Bill could seriously snaffle détente, while producing hardship to many Russians who have applied for emigration visas (trade concessions to the Russians in the Bill are tied to Soviet assurances on emigration).

Failure to enact the Bill could also wreck all hopes of a new GATT trade liberalization round. The Bill has just got through the Senate, by 71 votes to 4, but it must now go to a joint conference of both Houses and after that it must return for a final vote in each House. There are not even five days left for this whole procedure.

The next few days ought to be of frenzied activity on Capitol Hill. At this point one can say with confidence that key trade, unemployment and energy Bills have only an even chance of passage, while a host of important Bills dealing with the environment, social welfare, financial institutions and the securities industry will have to wait for action by the ninety-fourth Congress.

Frank Vogl

INTERIM STATEMENT

BRABY LESLIE LIMITED
(formerly Economic Group Limited)
Mechanical and Civil Engineers

INTERIM STATEMENT

The unaudited results for the half-year ended 30th September, 1974 are given below together with the comparative figures for the half-year ended 30th September, 1973 and the full year ended 31st March, 1974.

	Half-year ended 30th September, 1974	Half-year ended 30th September, 1973	Year ended 31st March 1974
Turnover	£866	£688	£1,862
Trading Profit	566	500	1,051
Interest	(139)	(95)	(199)
Group Pre-tax Profit	427	405	852
Taxation (note 1)	(133)	(114)	(262)
GROUP NET PROFIT AFTER TAXATION attributable to Braby Leslie Limited	£294	£291	£590
Earnings per Ordinary Share—actual	(note 2) 5.7p	5.9p	12.3p
Earnings per Ordinary Share assuming full tax charge at 52%—fully diluted	3.9p	3.5p	7.4p
Net tangible assets per Ordinary Share	38.9p	27.2p	31.8p

NOTES:
1.—The taxation charge at 52% comprises a transfer to Tax Equalisation Account in view of the capital allowances and stock appreciation relief available. Tax losses carried forward of £1.4 million are available against future profits in the appropriate companies.
2.—The comparative figures for earnings and net tangible assets per Ordinary Share have been adjusted to reflect the capitalisation issue of 3 for 5 made on 16th August, 1974.

Your Board has declared an interim dividend amounting to £34,686 (£24,686) for the year ending 31st March, 1975 of 0.75p (gross 1.11p) per share on the Ordinary Share Capital. Such dividend is payable on 24th January, 1975 to Shareholders registered at the close of business on 20th December, 1974. This compares with the interim dividend equivalent to £6,582p (gross 0.9375p) per share amounting to £29,584 (net) paid on 4th January, 1974 in respect of the year ended 31st March, 1974.

In the absence of any unforeseen circumstances, your Board expects to recommend a final dividend on the Ordinary Share Capital for the year ending 31st March, 1975 of 2.20p (gross 3.2957p) per share, which will make a total of 2.9581p (gross 4.151p) per share, being the maximum permitted by the Government. For the previous year the maximum final dividend payable (before election for the scrip dividend) was equivalent to 1.9629p (gross 2.8041p) per share making a total equivalent of £2,619p (gross 3,741p) per share.

Despite the heavy increase in our costs and interest charges and the delayed effect of the three-day week on our component suppliers, turnover and profits in the Mechanical Engineering Division have improved and all works have good order books. In the Civil Engineering Division the workload in Scotland is increasing, but elsewhere the outlook by the Government has led to reduced work for the Post Office and local authorities. In view of the difficult circumstances which have prevailed during the half-year, the profit made by the Civil Engineering Division can be regarded as satisfactory.

The cost of financing increased working capital remains high, but our bank facilities are adequate for our present and estimated future requirements. Given reasonable stability and trading conditions your Board has every confidence in the future development of the Group.

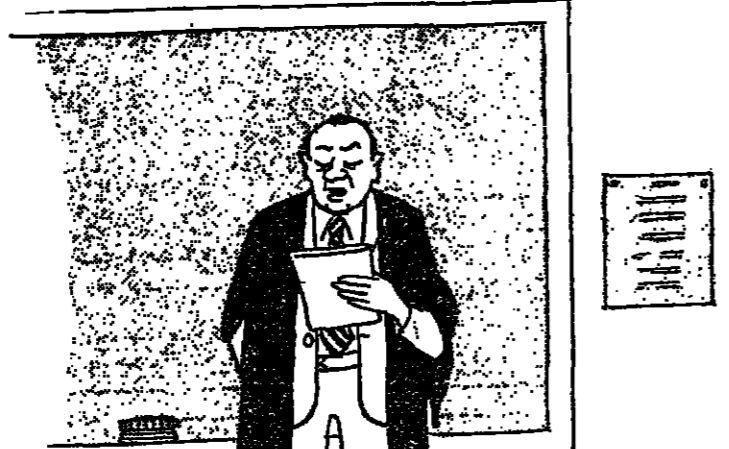
JOHN HINE,
Chairman

Business Diary: Lost in the computer • Whipp hand

Benn's announcement David Firnberg is the awaited new director of the National Computing Centre to catch the Department of Industry, the centre even Firnberg himself on top yesterday.

His department referred to the NCC declined to issue the appointment on grounds that it was still r wraps. Firnberg himself not available either at his flat or at his Hertford home when Business Diary yesterday.

Firnberg, of course, could be anywhere—out celebrating the new job, perhaps. The centre should know so was passing strange, however, since according to the appointment to have a up the appointment yesterday.



Hollywood "If the pound is devalued by 22 per cent in three years, how long will it be before...?"

data processing, before setting up his own show, Geoffrey Firnberg Associates. He was, however, involved with government once more with consulting and training assignments.

And that after chasing about between London, Manchester and deepest Hertfordshire, is about all there is to be said for the moment. No doubt all the confusion can be put down to a hiccup somewhere in the computer.

tation between Hyams, a chairman who is as ebullient as he is elusive, and Whipp, who is a questioner as erudite as he is persistent.

Last year's affair could be said to have ended in a technical knockout with Hyams the winner. He preempted Whipp's question "If I limit the share only to answer 'no' after each one."

Hyams then went on to lambast Whipp's estimate that the net worth of an Oldham share was 350p, valuing the company at over £500m. This sort of assessment, Hyams said, had done more damage to property companies than anything else.

Whipp, on the other hand, would not be alone were he to argue that misconceptions flourish most where there is least disposition to inform people to the contrary.

Rolling stone Geoffrey Church, Guernsey's first—and for some time at least, last—director of economic development, is heading for the mainland with half of his five-year contract to run.

Church, who is 45, is to return to an old speciality. He came to Guernsey from Pilkington Brothers, where he advocated, designed and built the company's Wrexham fibre-glass plant. From February, he will become production director for Composite Material Engineering and Fibre Limited, an Avonmouth-based maker of composite materials for everything from rockets to deep water wells. He leaves behind him a 10-year economic development plan for the island, and a study

of the horticultural industry, the island's biggest, and increased interest in the island from light industry. There are no plans to replace him.

Church is a rolling stone whose career has taken him to the United States and to South Africa. He said that much of the work envisaged by the island's planning and finance committee when they made the appointment has now been done. If so, then this fits in well with critics of the £9,000-a-year plus appointment, said to be the biggest salary received by a public official on the island. The appointment was made by the island's advisory and finance committee, whose chairman, Edward Collas, is Guernsey's equivalent of the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

The creation of the post, and even more its remuneration, took some people by surprise and there were complaints of inadequate consultation. Then some of the island's economic surveillance—namely banks flocking to its hospitable shores—went elsewhere.

All Church would add last night was that the job was no longer big enough.

Is Sir Don Ryder, the Government's new industrial adviser, already encountering difficulties in understanding the circumstances of the new Cabinet Office? Business Diary saw a messenger from that department, inquiring urgently at Hatchards bookshop last week after an order placed by the office for a copy of the Concise Oxford English Dictionary.

Whipp has been prominent in

FINANCIAL NEWS

Buoyant freight and engineering sides bring cheer to Giltspur

By Adrienne Gleeson. On the back of a 14.7 per cent advance in sales to £21.46m for the six months to end-September, pre-tax profits of industrial services group Giltspur have advanced from £1.21m to £1.31m, an outcome which Mr Maxwell Joseph, chairman, considers "most encouraging" in view of the difficult conditions within which the group has been operating.

contribution from associated companies fell sharply, from £118,000 to £65,000. The chairman says that the facilities available are adequate for future expansion and expected trading levels. The half-time balance sheet shows a small increase in cash from £1.68m to £1.86m, but bank overdrafts have increased from £2.24m to £4.3m, although this is not reflected in the interim interest charges, which are down from £423,000 to £341,000.

British Car Auction's opening upswing takes group 'over worst'

The confident mood three months ago at British Car Auction Group - in spite of a sharp fall in profits - seems to have been justified with a sparkling upswing in opening results to November 11. Turnover climbed 13 per cent to £27.08m, on which pre-tax earnings jumped 41 per cent to £402,000. The board is to consider an interim dividend in April next, which would be payable on May 31 (against 1p).

The pattern in the preceding year was losses in the early months of the second-half, but a recovery in the final quarter, which was maintained in the half just past. For the rest of the year, the new car business is unlikely to show any improvement, and at present the manufacturing side is beset with troubles. Nevertheless, the current level of trading indicates that the company "is over the worst".

May & Hassell profit cut by £2m after stock write-off

Falling world prices for timber hurt importing and merchandising group May & Hassell severely in the six months to the end of September. Interim pre-tax profits have been slashed from £3.2m to £1.2m on sales slightly higher at £16.1m. Group chairman Mr J. H. B. Atley told shareholders that these results included "a massive write-down of stock values to a realistic base level from which it is considered that your group can trade profitably in the next six months".

Hawtin sale to Gulf & Western

By Christopher Wilkins. Shares in Hawtin, Ltd, the banking and finance group were suspended at 3p yesterday to allow talks to proceed which will lead to Gulf & Western Industries acquiring its banking business.

New 'ginger' group move on Talbox

In the red last year because of losses of its mortgage offshoot, Talbox Group has been advised that Mr J. T. Cheney (who sought to requisition an extraordinary meeting in June) has again circulated members for support at the annual meeting on December 30.

Interim leap by Siebe Gorman

Having leapt to a first-time £2m-plus last year, Siebe Gorman Holdings, the diving, fire-fighting and safety equipment group, notched up further growth in the first-half to September, underpinned by solid and continuing progress both in Britain and overseas in the current six months.

Slater stock redemption

With the purchase for redemption of some £10m of unsecured stocks, Slater, Walker Securities has made a further substantial reduction in its loan stock commitments. The deal, involving major investment institutions both in Britain and abroad, reduces the total of the group's United Kingdom quoted loan stock still outstanding by about one-fifth. Negotiations have been proceeding for some time, and it is understood that the group originally showed interest in an even larger percentage of its stock.

Jessel and the stake in JFB

Standing down as chairman from yesterday, Mr Oliver Jessel told the annual meeting of Johnson & Firth Brown that it was a matter of great regret that the future of Jessel Securities' stake in the company was in doubt. There were "no cross-guarantees from any part of this company to associated companies, or vice versa", he added.

RHP in good trim

In a "stronger position than ever before", Ransome Hoffman Pollard looks to a continuing improvement in performance in the present year. Mr G. W. Barlow, chairman, tells members that the slow down in some sectors was being offset by traditional activity on other bearing ranges where the group excels against world competition. As a result, world factories are well loaded, and the year's tax profit leapt from £812,000 to £2.81m.

Braby Leslie pay more

Given a fair run the board of Braby Leslie, (formerly the Economic Group), has every confidence in future development, with "adequate facilities" for the future of the Jessel stake, Mr Peter Johnson, the new chairman, told the meeting.

RTZ earnings may slip

Rio Tinto-Zinc Corporation is forecasting pre-tax profits for 1974 above the £225m of 1973. But due to higher taxation, the attributable profits will be somewhat below last year's £69.6m. The board yesterday restated the interim figures to allow for full consolidation of Bougainville Copper in September ahead of the settlement of the new agreement with the Papua New Guinea Government, until dividends from Bougainville were included.

Christy-HAT disposal

With the effect of reducing group borrowings by up to £300,000, Christy Bros is to sell the electrical contracting business of its offshoot Christy Electrical to HAT Group, HAT is acquiring the fixed and trading assets of the business and has formed a new company, Christy Electrical Contractors. The value of Christy will be realized in the business.

EIB Ulster loan

The European Investment Bank, the European Community's medium-term lending institution, has completed its first loan to Ulster. It takes the form of a five year, 10 per cent £2.5m funding for Short Brothers and Harland, the Belfast aircraft company. The loan will finance development of the SD3-30 wide-bodied commuter aircraft. So far this year the EIB has lent £43.3m to the United Kingdom.

Cronite Group

With turnover of the Cronite Group up from £1.47m to £2.26m for the year to September 30, taxable profits were 50 per cent higher at £244,000. After deductions for reorganization, deferred tax adjustments and a change in the basis of stock valuations and adding a property sale surplus on the Mountain, Moderna continues to recommend the ordinary and preference offers of Bond Worth Holdings, which closes tomorrow.

Capex Inds buying T & N unit

Directors of Turner & Newall and Cape Industries have agreed on the transfer of the insulation contracting business of Turner & Newall's subsidiary, Newalls Insulation, to Cape Contracts, a subsidiary of Cape Industries, with effect January 26. This transaction is subject to satisfactory indications that it will not be referred for investment.

Orders safeguard at Crown House

Sounding a warning of a downturn in several of the markets in which it operates, Crown House is, nevertheless, confident that healthy order books will ensure a reasonable second half of its current period to March. In the first six months profits before tax rose 18 per cent to £76,000 after an associate's loss of £25,000. Mr Patrick Edge-Partington, chairman, is hopeful that the full figure will not fall below the previous term's £1.97m. The dividend is 0.77p (0.75p).

Latest dividends

Table with columns: Company, Dividend, Date, etc. Includes entries for WGL, WOL, WOL, etc.

Business appointments

Mr Peter Johnson has been made executive director of Johnson and Firth Brown following the resignation of Mr Oliver Jessel, who continues as a director of the company. Mr E. S. Tibbets as deputy chief executive of Lloyds Bank International on his retirement next April. Mr M. R. Lutter, after temporary attachment to Lloyds Bank, will return to LBI to succeed Mr Whitely as head of the European division and has been appointed a director.

Mr Peter Johnson takes over as JFB chairman

Mr T. G. Picken and Mr R. Walker have gone on the board of London and Midland Industrials. Mr F. R. Howard has been made a director of W. Sharrpe. Mr H. S. Maitland, the British Petroleum trading director responsible for administration, retires at the end of the month and is succeeded by Mr D. F. Gresham, managing director of BP Tanker Co. Mr Gresham will become a non-executive director of BP Tanker Co. Mr G. A. B. King, general manager of the shipping department, will succeed Mr Gresham as managing director. Mr R. B. Horton, a coordinator in the regional directorate Europe, of BP Trading, joins the board. He is appointed general manager in Mr King's place.

May & Hassell Limited

Interim Statement by the Chairman, Mr J H B Atley. Half-Year ended 30th September, 1974. RESULTS. Profit achieved despite a massive write down of stock values to a realistic base level from which the Group can trade profitably in the next six months.

INTERIM STATEMENT

Head Office: Permanent House, The Headrow, Leeds LS1 1NS. One of the 'Big Five'. A Member of the Building Societies Association. Shares and Deposits in the Society are Trustee Investments.

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Mr G. C. D'Arcy Biss, chairman of Siebe Gorman. Solid progress maintained.

Stock markets Gilts' upsurge goes on

The stock market was in good form yesterday, following further details that Saudi Arabia was looking with disfavour upon the pound sterling. Gilts edged stocks rose strongly, and inspired a good, if less dramatic recovery in share prices. The FT index closed 4.0 up at 156.2 (after 156.7). Turnover remained unexciting however, as displayed by a total of only 5,020 recorded bargains, the lowest Monday for two months.

Government bonds yesterday continued the strong rally set in train on Friday. For the first time for many sessions the short-dated "tap" Treasury 2 1/2 per cent 1979, became "operative". Dealers reported that the Government Broker managed to sell stock on a small scale at prevailing market prices.

Recent statements about the investment intentions of Saudi Arabia, together with the healthier trend in the sterling exchange rate since closing of "bear positions" appeared to be the main factors behind the latest advance. However, buying was said to be insufficiently heavy to justify the sharp upward movement in prices that actually occurred.

Longer "shorts" ended with net gains of 7/16 to 3/4 point, while "mediums" and "longs" displayed a net advance of between 1/2 and 3/4 point. The market was described as still "highly nervous" and "volatile", with the discount market apparently pushing prices up at the "short end".

In the equity market, prices opened higher and quickly made further progress as gilts forged ahead. But turnover was light and many prices finished below their best levels when buyers failed to materialize. Equities have been almost dominated for the past week by the falls in gilts, which in turn reflected the fall in sterling caused by fears that Arab countries might be about to flee from sterling. The movements in market indices have not been accompanied by any great increases in business.

At the end of yesterday's session, ICI showed a net gain of 3p at 121p, having touched 124p earlier. Distillers recouped 2 1/2p to close at 116p, Beechams added 4p to 116p, Courtaulds

Wall Street

New York, Dec 16. - After moving indecisively for most of the day, the New York stock market had its second consecutive setback and finished lower in moderate trading.

The Dow Jones industrial average fell 5.94 points to 586.83. It dropped 3.94 points Friday, and related disposal of 100 million shares closed the week eight to 1 1/2 cents lower. Dec 16: Dow Jones 586.83, NYSE 178.18, Amex 100.12, Nasdaq 100.12.

Table of stock market data including columns for various companies and their prices. Includes entries for Gen Foods, Allied Chem, Allied Super, etc.

United City Merchants Limited

Advertisement for United City Merchants Limited. Chairman Eric Sosnow reports. SALES: £138,768,360 (£90,115,019). PRE-TAX PROFIT: £1,959,290 (£1,540,282). EARNINGS PER SHARE: 6.50p (5.52p). DIVIDEND: 0.924p per share (maximum permissible) covered seven times. The main activity of the Group is worldwide international trade. A copy of the Annual Report will be sent on request to: U.C.M. House, 3/5 Swallow Place, Princes Street, London W1A 1BB.

a Special Report briefing

SUGAR

Sweet crisis and sour prices as European crops fail

by John Woodland
Commodities Editor

Sugar, one of the few true international commodities, is going through a phreatic period of the sort which has never been seen before and one which most traders, merchants, consumers and producers have no desire to see again.

In spite of warnings from sugar experts during the past three years that a world shortage was likely because of increased consumption, little action was taken to expand production.

This was not surprising because of the huge cost involved and experience of low prices in world markets. To invest in a sugar complex was thought to be an expensive luxury with the estimated cost for a 100,000-tonne new mill put at a minimum of £30m. This estimate is rising daily.

Catastrophic European crops this season electrified the world markets after particularly bad weather for sugar beet growing. It caused the London sugar brokers, C. Czarnikow to estimate the European harvest at just 24,490,000 tonnes, a drop of 2,300,000 tonnes over 1973-74.

Stocks are down to a mere 10 weeks' supply and people are having to ration their normal consumption of sugar, either because they cannot afford it or because it simply is not there.

Britain is one of the worst affected countries, with Czarnikow forecasting production down from 1,647,000 tonnes in 1973-74 to 650,000 tonnes this season. But even this goal may not be reached. The Belgian crop also has been hard hit with latest estimates putting the harvest at 600,000 tonnes or 180,000 tonnes less than the previous year.

With Russia losing some 500,000 tonnes at nine million tonnes; West Germany, more than 100,000 at 2,409,000 tonnes; Poland, 317,000 tonnes at 1,500,000, and Italy some 200,000 at 925,000 tonnes, it is little wonder that prices have soared.

A year ago the London daily price was £139 a long ton, then a record; but this year the £200 mark was soon surpassed and, although wavering in the mid £200s between May and July, the

price then accelerated sharply.

By the end of August, £300 had been seen and at the end of October it was well over £400. November was a hectic month with the price climbing rapidly, reaching the current record of £650 a ton on November 21.

The price has since fallen sharply and is about £450, but it is difficult to see the price reacting much further because the world shortage will last well into 1975. Many sources feel that prices will depend greatly on the weather next year.

One happy aspect of this year's high prices is that many countries, including West and East Europe and the Latin American nations, are to expand production at last.

Probably the greatest area for expansion is in Africa where the potential is enormous. Some wise businessmen had begun to increase production long before the price explosion.

Booker McConnell, for instance, has been growing and manufacturing sugar since the mid-nineteenth century. The company is now involved, by way of investment or management services, in the production of more than 500,000 tonnes of sugar annually in the Caribbean and Africa.

In Kenya the Mumias sugar scheme has been sponsored by the Government and developed by the company. It plans to raise output from 45,000 tonnes this year to 70,000 by 1976.

Lonrho in conjunction with various governments, has been active in Africa. The company has hopes of 300,000 tons in Sudan; 40,000 tons in Dahomey, and 100,000 tons (up from 40,000) on the Ivory Coast. Nigeria hopes that by 1976 half the country's sugar needs will be catered for after the setting up of a joint company between the Federal Government, the North-eastern State Government and the Commonwealth Development Corporation. The North-eastern State is expected to produce 120,000 tonnes of refined sugar a year.

In Australia the Queensland industry hopes for increased production which could lift Australian output by 300,000 tonnes to 3,200,000 tonnes. But with most expansion



Collecting sugar cane in Tanzania.

plans not coming to fruition until 1976, it seems certain that the world shortage will persist throughout next year.

If consumption keeps growing—put at close to two million tonnes a year—and if prices continue to be held down by governments for social and economic reasons, then there is little doubt that the forecast made by Dr Albert Viton, of the Food and Agriculture Organization, that world demand will reach between 94 million and 96 million tons by 1980, will be fulfilled. The problem is whether enough sugar will be produced even after the 1976 expansion plans.

Dr Viton says the stimulus to production expansion has been much milder than would be expected from world price developments.

The simple fact is that in the overwhelming majority of countries domestic, not export, prices have determined the amounts paid to farmers and mills, and big increases in domestic markets have been rare.

In many countries prices paid to producers have not kept pace with increases in production costs, brought about by more expensive machinery, chemicals, fuel and, above all, higher wages. Governments of some exporting countries have siphoned off higher earnings from exports, instead of allowing farmers and mills to benefit; other governments have deliberately kept down production expansion by administrative measures, because they did not believe the favourable prices would last

and feared a repetition of the low prices of the last decade.

One of the basic factors that has kept farmers from expanding into sugar is that the margin of profitability of sugar over other crops has declined, particularly over the past 12 months, and farmers consequently have not found it in their interest to assume the costs and risks of expansion.

The world sugar economy is now in a crisis; it is more important, therefore,

not to compound past mistakes with panic policies.

Dr Viton suggests that just as it was wrong to base production and marketing policies on the assumption that sugar would become cheaper continually, it would be equally wrong to expect the present high world prices to continue indefinitely.

No one can say what the average price will be during the next five years, but for a working hypothesis Dr Viton puts forward an average of about £130 a ton, raw

value. He fully realizes that only in a few parts of the world can new production be brought on at this price.

On the other hand, it would be foolhardy to overlook the price effects of a world bumper crop—say an increase of 10 per cent because of favourable weather conditions in all, or nearly all, the major production areas.

Such an increase is feasible and if it came about it would probably mean a price of less than £130 for a time.

EEC statistics

Year	Production	Imports	Exports	Net Imports	Consumption	Stocks
1973	10,176,858	2,228,401	1,915,770	312,631	11,116,435	7,678,442
1972	9,935,764	2,293,964	1,919,571	374,393	10,674,683	8,305,388
1971	10,287,253	2,296,891	1,287,919	1,008,972	10,460,719	8,451,144

Production

Area	1973	1972
Europe	26,957,387	27,073,233
North America	4,593,315	4,612,382
Central America	11,388,669	10,594,516
South America	11,767,436	10,751,793
Asia	14,151,566	13,180,410
Africa	5,325,683	5,393,030
Oceania	3,911,229	4,204,547
World total	78,095,285	75,809,911
Beet percentage	40.8	42.6
Cane percentage	59.3	57.4

Consumption

Area	1973	1972
Europe	31,574,238	30,115,881
North America	11,675,475	11,496,921
Central America	3,842,182	3,579,587
South America	7,830,233	7,646,294
Asia	17,909,439	17,590,390
Africa	4,834,540	4,605,141
Oceania	1,019,287	970,691
World total	78,685,384	76,004,905

Stocks

Area	Dec 31 1973	Dec 31 1972
Europe	283,710	329,300
Austria	7,678,442	8,305,388
EEC	132,279	140,872
Finland	192,386	103,313
Greece	221,527	221,874
Hungary	288,110	294,811
Sweden	471,886	632,590
Turkey	361,708	176,823
Yugoslavia		
North America	321,974	464,028
Canada		
United States (mainland)	2,365,694	2,500,669
Central America		
Cuba	460,630	339,201
Mexico	207,275	282,414
South America		
Argentina	736,154	526,222
Brazil	2,159,704	2,464,159
Asia		
India	934,120	981,757
Indonesia	396,743	214,669
Iran	139,526	86,729
Japan	333,546	607,341
Philippines	483,381	418,514
Thailand	222,300	101,352
Africa		
Mauritius	180,852	196,358
Mozambique	116,575	89,778
Nigeria	121,828	110,841
South Africa	559,981	588,465
Oceania		
Australia	785,543	1,083,426

Source: International Sugar Organization. All figures metric tons, raw value.



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New major setback to Commonwealth supplies

Richard Allen

The temporary breakdown in negotiations in Brussels and London with Commonwealth sugar producers to fix a price for consignments of 1,400,000 tons is not the first serious setback to the EEC's tortuously formulated sugar policy.

Last week the European Commission admitted that its offer to buy 1,400,000 tons from Commonwealth producers in an attempt to secure supplies to meet immediate needs had run into serious difficulties. The Commission had invited tenders for the purchase of 1,000,000 tons from "any source" under a complex reimbursement worked out in Luxembourg during October. The plan was that these tenders would be followed by a further purchase of 400,000 tons—possibly amounting to 1.4 million tons—would be authorized down to the EEC's internal price of about 30p a ton out of Community funds. At the same time the EEC would minimize the effect of the subsidy by selling an equivalent amount of its year's Community crop to the free market.

However, the commission said last week that tenders received in this first tentative step in the scheme were high that it could not accept them.

A commission spokesman attributed the setback to the temporary closure of the sugar market, which made forward sales difficult. He also voiced a suspicion that traders had been submitting optimistically high tenders hoping that the commission would pay up to the point of desperation to get the sale off the ground. But British cane refiners have most to lose if this scheme failed, made their argument perfectly clear.

He told the commission that the Brussels estimate of a subsidy in the region of 10p a ton would have to be reduced to secure anything like the amount required. With soaring world prices, the bargaining by Commonwealth suppliers and disorganised harvests this year, Britain's sugar industry is facing a crisis. It is a crisis which has far exceeded only to obscure the issues and accentuate the problems.

The main problem in negotiations throughout this year has been that legislation in the Community regarding Britain's entry had geared more to dealing with burdensome surpluses than sudden deficits. In recent years the Six have been a net exporter of sugar. Production was governed by a complex system of quotas which in fact penalized countries at failed to achieve self-sufficiency, while a scale of pricing made over-production unprofitable at the low world prices then prevailing. Meanwhile, Britain's industry was vigorously pursuing a policy of restricting the industry to about a third of requirements to guarantee access to Commonwealth cane sugar under the Sugar Agreement.

This agreement under which sugar was imported at a price of between £60 and £70 a ton has now run out and any agreement would certainly have involved considerably higher prices as a result of the world situation. Britain's shortage of a past few months stemmed directly from Caribbean

producers diverting CSA sugar to more lucrative American markets in a desperate move to cover soaring production costs.

However, any continuation of this policy would have amounted to a direct contravention of EEC rules and Britain, faced with a powerful European sugar beet lobby, did well to secure as part of her entry negotiations a pledge that the EEC would continue the essentials of the CSA.

At the time of these negotiations the French producers, seeing a vast new market for their beet sugar, demanded that the amount of Commonwealth sugar brought into Europe be reduced to 500,000 tons.

Caught between vested interests the Community council delayed a firm decision until the British Government in 1971 finally succeeded in getting a guarantee of continuing access for 1,400,000 tons from the Commonwealth. However, when Britain proposed using the new Commonwealth EEC sugar arrangements to establish supplies from Australia as part of its EEC renegotiations this year the commission rejected the proposal outright.

The price involved—£180 a ton for 350,000 tons under a five-year contract with an index-linking clause—was considered far too high compared with the Community's internal price then of £130. It was only after 20 hours of negotiations that a powerful West German sugar beet lobby in Luxembourg finally capitulated to the "Lardinois" agreement under which the Community is attempting to buy from world markets largely to meet Britain's own needs.

The overall Community position for 1974-75 is still vague. Production in Europe is unlikely to exceed nine million tonnes against a requirement of nearly 11 million tonnes.

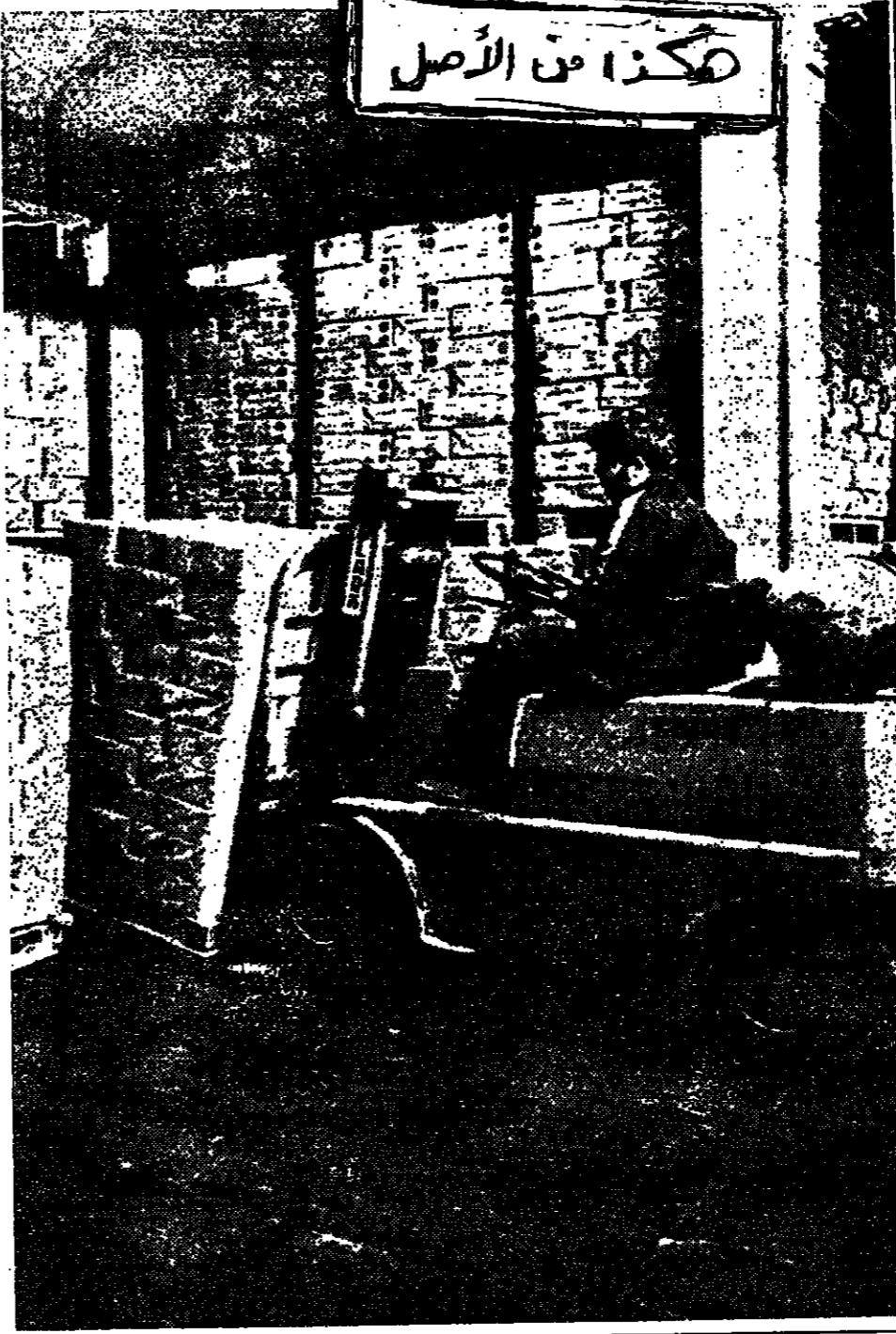
The position for Britain, according to Mr Ian Smith, an economics lecturer who recently prepared a paper on the subject for the Trade Policy Research Centre, looks a good deal more frightening. With 1975 consumption including repayment of borrowings to world markets—estimated at 2,850,000 tons, domestic supplies at 650,000 tons and assuming 1,100,000 tons from developing Commonwealth countries the deficit is an alarming 1,100,000 tons.

After one particularly long and arduous negotiating session with fellow agricultural ministers last month, Mr Fred Peart emerged to say that Britain must realize the era of cheap sugar is over. Later the same month Sir Christopher Soames, a vice-president of the EEC Commission, hit back at critics of the sugar negotiations and said: "Britain's sugar supplies are threatened by the world market. Britain is in a better position to safeguard her future supplies at a reasonable price as a member of the Community than if she were outside."

It is abundantly clear that British sugar men have little faith in the Community's patchwork of compromise deals. There is a strong feeling within the industry that when the expected failure of current policies is felt in the shops, sugar could become one of the most crucial factors in an EEC referendum.



Shifting sugar in the raw state (above) and in the final package (right).



Napoleon gave a push to the continental industry

There are two principal crops for sugar: cane, which accounts for over half of the world's production, is a tropical or subtropical plant, and beet, which is grown in temperate or cold climates. Other minor sugar sources are maple trees, sugar palms and sorghum.

Cane, which dates back to antiquity, probably originated in New Guinea. It reached Egypt and Spain by the eighth century and the Americas by the sixteenth. It is a giant perennial grass of the genus *Saccharum* and mature canes may be 10ft to 26ft tall and are usually 1 1/2in to 2in in diameter.

Cane thrives under a wide diversity of conditions on heavy clay to light sandy soils where rainfall is from 30in to 120in a year. Production is favoured where the average maximum temperature at the active growing stage is about 30°C, becoming gradually lower as the growing time approaches until the minimum temperature is about 15°C.

An average rainfall of about 5in a month for the month before and first four months of harvest, and 5in a month for the remaining period is adequate.

The cane stem is divided into internodes averaging 6in in length and 1 1/2in in diameter though this can extend up to 12in by 2in. Drought, low temperatures or onset of flowering results in shorter internodes, each of which bears a long leaf protecting a bud.

Propagation is by cuttings from the cane stalk, each consisting of two or more buds which germinate and produce new plants.

Pests attack all parts of the plant. The froghopper causes serious leaf damage and the small moth borer results in loss of weight and juice quality. The greyback beetle seriously diminishes production by feeding on the roots. Fungi and bacteria are also responsible for many diseases.

Sugar beet on the other hand is a fairly modern industry. It was grown as a garden vegetable and for fodder long before it was valued for its sugar content. Sugar was produced experimentally from beets in Germany in 1747 by the chemist Andreas Marggraf but the first beet factory was built in Silesia in 1802.

Napoleon became interested in the process in 1811 because the British blockade had cut off the raw sugar supply from the West Indies, and under his influence 40 factories were established in France.

In Britain the first factory was built by Dutch interests at Cantley, Norfolk in 1912. This was not a commercial success for it incurred losses for four years. A second factory was built in 1921, and in 1925 when Britain was suffering from economic woes the Government approved a scheme for assistance for 10 years. During the decade 16 more factories were established.

In 1936 all the factories were amalgamated under the newly formed British Sugar Corporation. Now beet is

grown on some 20,000 farms and in the 1973-74 campaign the corporation produced 948,000 tons of white sugar equivalent (872,000 in 1972-73), 653,000 tons of dried molasses beer pulp (564,000 tons), and 143,000 tons (91,000) of molasses for sale.

This season, however, it is generally thought that sugar output will be down a third after bad weather. Under various projects the corporation is increasing its factory capacity to produce 1,100,000 tons of sugar a year.

The ideal soil for growing sugar beet is deep free-draining loam with good drainage. Of the pests attacking the beet are flea beetles, wireworms, mangel-fly and aphids, all of which can be controlled by suitable chemicals and eelworm.

Most important diseases are black leg, mildew, heart and root rot and virus yellows. The latter, which is transmitted by green aphids, causes a yellowing of the leaves and can mean heavy crop losses.

J.W.

Major net exporters

Country	1973	1972	1971
1 Cuba	4,797,377	4,139,556	5,510,860
2 Brazil	2,975,306	2,637,525	1,230,377
3 Australia	2,102,822	2,297,619	1,761,793
4 Philippines	1,385,133	1,261,536	1,411,483
5 Dominican Republic	1,069,550	1,141,328	1,011,192
6 South Africa	913,474	1,045,186	764,286
7 Mauritius	738,883	650,374	602,185
8 Mexico	590,211	598,411	551,071
9 Taiwan	507,684	520,003	541,861
10 Argentina	470,445	167,134	121,138
11 Peru	407,011	480,932	428,611
12 Poland	394,007	310,727	44,897
13 Thailand	285,294	438,861	145,010
14 Jamaica	271,474	309,913	309,913
15 Guyana	237,769	319,561	361,552
16 India	208,705	104,518	353,664
World total	19,208,473	18,741,135	17,127,404

Sugar and the business of Booker McConnell

Guyana Bookers Sugar Estates—a consistently profitable subsidiary company—produces 300,000 tons of sugar and 100,000 tons of molasses a year on eight estates. Guyana is now the biggest sugar-exporting country in the Commonwealth Caribbean. The company employs 18,000 people and will earn this year about £45m in foreign exchange for Guyana. Land in cane has expanded from 78,000 acres to 90,000 acres in the last five years.

Nigeria Booker McConnell has pioneered the only successful sugar industry in West Africa. It developed the Bacila estate in the Niger valley, built the factory and provided management and technical advisory services; and it owns 17% of the equity of the Nigerian Sugar Company. This year about 35,000 tons of sugar were produced and the company is highly profitable.

Kenya At Mumias in Western Province, Booker McConnell has created, from the feasibility study to profitable production, the biggest sugar estate in Kenya. In the first six months of operation in 1973 it made a profit, although selling at the local price of only £85 a ton. It should make about 54,000 tons of sugar this year. Plans are in hand to develop a second and even larger estate. Booker McConnell also has a 5% shareholding in the Mumias Sugar Company.

Consultancy services Booker Agricultural and Technical Services, based at Bucklersbury House, is one of the leading sugar consultancy firms in the world. It provides a service ranging from the simple assessment of technical problems to the creation of a fully-developed sugar estate, together with all the supporting management, technical and training services.

Sugar machinery Fletcher and Stewart, a subsidiary in the Engineering Division, is one of the major sugar machinery manufacturers in the world. Apart from sales of unit equipment it supplies complete new factories on a turnkey basis. A substantial modernisation and expansion of the Masson Works at Derby will shortly be completed.

The future of sugar The vast increase in the world consumption of sugar over the remainder of this century will provide great opportunities for Booker McConnell's operations in sugar. Sugar is one of the traditional strengths of Booker McConnell and the companies concerned are being further strengthened to meet the challenge.



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The London daily sugar price in long tons

End of month price.	1973	1974
September	£101	£105
October	£105	£112.50
November	£105	£118
December	£105	£148
January	1974	£201
February	1974	£230
March	1974	£201
April	1974	£235
May	1974	£235
June	1974	£234
July	1974	£277
August	1974	£355
September	1974	£360
October	1974	£460
November	1974	£540

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This week at Sotheby's

There are now regular Wednesday evening openings at New Bond Street from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.; for clients to view the current sales, obtain estimates and place bids only. Every Wednesday except Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

After Friday, 20th December, sales recommence at Bond Street on 6th January 1975 and at Belgravia on 7th January 1975.

Art At Auction 1973-4, The Year at Sotheby Parke Bernet, is now available from bookshops, price £8, or direct from Sotheby Parke Bernet Publications, 36 Dover Street, London W1X 3RB, price £8-50 post paid.

Today, Tuesday, 17th December, at 10.30 a.m., at New Bond St.
Antique Firearms
 From the Collection of the late William Goodwin Remwick (European, Part VIII) (sold by order of the present owner Sotheby Parke Bernet Inc.)
 Cat. (33 plates) £1

to be followed at approximately 11.15 a.m. by Modern Sporting Guns, Antique Firearms, Armour and Edged Weapons including the properties of Anne, Duchess of Westminster, and other owners
 Cat. (9 plates, 1 in colour) 30p

Today, Tuesday, 17th December, at 11 a.m., at New Bond St.
Nineteenth Century and Modern First Editions, Presentation Copies, Autograph Letters and Literary Manuscripts including the properties of the Literary Executors of Walter de la Mare, and other owners
 Cat. (1 plate) 20p

Today, Tuesday, 17th December, at 11 a.m., and 2.30 p.m., at New Bond St.
South-East Asian and Chinese Ceramics and Works of Art
 Cat. (8 plates) 30p

Sotheby & Co., 34-35 New Bond Street, London W1A 2AA. Telephone: 01-493 8080
 Sotheby's Belgravia, 19 Motcomb Street, London SW1X 8LB. Telephone: 01-235 4311
 Sotheby & Co., 115 Chancery Lane, London WC2A 1PX (Hodgson's Rooms). Telephone: 01-405 7238
 John Robertson, 19 Castle Street, Edinburgh EH2 3AH. Telephone: 031-226 5438

Thursday, 19th December, at 11 a.m., at Belgravia

Continental Ceramics
 Cat. (92 illustrations, 2 in colour) 85p

Thursday, 19th December, at 11 a.m., at New Bond St.

Fine Jewels including the properties of Sir Thomas Bromley, Mrs. E. M. A. Learoyd, and other owners
 Cat. (8 plates) 30p

Thursday, 19th December, at 11 a.m., at New Bond St.

English and Foreign Silver and Plate including the properties of the late Mrs. John Bercford, Lt-Col. R. G. Hewitt, D.S.O., (the Hon. Wilder Ridley, and other owners
 Cat. (4 plates) 25p

Thursday, 19th December, at 2.30 p.m., and the following day at 11 a.m., at New Bond St.

Rugs, Carpets, Paintings on Glass, Transfer Engravings, Costumes, Dolls and English Furniture including the properties of the Hon. Mrs. Herbert, and other owners
 Cat. (2 plates) 20p

ABROAD: 19th December, at 10.45 p.m., at the Hotel Eurobuilding, Madrid

General Sale
 Cat. £4

Friday, 20th December, at 11 a.m., at New Bond St.

Chinese Snuff bottles including the properties of Mrs. Armitage, Brigadier T. Litton, and other owners
 Cat. (3 plates) 20p

Catalogues (post free) from Catalogue Department, 2 Merrington Road, London SW6 1RG. Telephone: 01-381 1531

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Italian single-manual harpsichord, 17th century, 74in. long, case and stand probably 18th century. To be sold on Thursday, December 19th.

TODAY TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17th
 English Drawings and Watercolours. Catalogue 25p post paid.

TODAY TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17th
 Fine Japanese Works of Art. Catalogue (3 plates) 35p post paid.

TODAY TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17th
 at 2.30 p.m.
 Fine Greek and Russian Icons. Catalogue (20 plates, including 1 in colour) 52p post paid.

TOMORROW WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18th
 at 10.30 a.m.
 Miniatures and Objects of Vertu. The Properties of Major R. M. O. De La Hay, The Midway-White Family Trust and others. Catalogue (15 plates) 51p post paid.

TOMORROW WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18th
 Fine Modern Sporting Guns and Antique Arms. The Properties of Eleanor, Lady Abercromby, Baron De Bourayne, Lady Mackenzie, Colonel R. A. Willis, O.B.E. and others. Catalogue (27 plates, including 1 in colour) 90p post paid.

TOMORROW WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18th
 Clocks and Scientific Instruments. Catalogue (9 plates) 35p post paid.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19th
 at 11 a.m. and 2.30 p.m.
 English and Continental Furniture, Objects of Art, Eastern Rugs and Carpets. The Properties of the late James Pope-Hemnessy, Esq., C.V.O. and others. Catalogue 25p post paid.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19th
 at 2.30 p.m.

Fine Musical Instruments. The Properties of Sir Jeremy Boles, Bt., The Earl Howe, C.B.E. and others. Catalogue (10 plates) 41p post paid.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20th

Modern British Paintings, Drawings and Sculpture. The Properties of Sir John Dodd, Anton Lock, Esq., Oscar Nemon, Esq. and others. Catalogue (4 illustrations) 30p post paid.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20th

English and Foreign Silver. Catalogue (3 plates) 25p post paid.

NEW SEASON

The new season will begin on Thursday, January 9th with sales of Objects of Art and 19th and 20th century Pictures.

Sales begin at 11 a.m., unless otherwise stated and are subject to the conditions printed in the relevant catalogues.

Edinburgh Office: 48 Melville Street, Edinburgh EH3 7RH. Tel.: (031) 225 4757

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Phillips

Today, Dec. 17, 11 a.m. Good English and Continental Furniture, Works of Art, Carpets.

Today, Dec. 17, 2 p.m. Jewellery. Ill. cat. 30p.

Wed., Dec. 18, 11 a.m. Ceramics and Glass.

Thurs., Dec. 19, 10 a.m. Furniture, etc., at Marylebone.

Thurs., Dec. 19, 11 a.m. Lead Soldiers, Models and Trains.

Fri., Dec. 20, 11 a.m. Silver and Plated Ware.

Mon., Dec. 23, 11 a.m. Antique and Decorative Furniture, Works of Art, Carpets.

The salerooms will close at 12 noon on Tues., Dec. 24, and will re-open on Mon., Dec. 30. The salerooms will be closed New Year's Day.

Tues., Dec. 31, 11 a.m. Good English & Continental Furniture, Works of Art, Carpets.

Thurs., Jan. 2, 10 a.m. Furniture, etc., at Marylebone. View Tuesday.

Fri., Jan. 3, 11 a.m. Silver and Plated Ware.

Phillips in Knowle: Dec. 18, Victorians. The Old House, Knowle, W. Midlands. Tel. 056 45 6151.

View 2 days prior and Cats. 25p by post unless stated.

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PROPERTY also on page 6

Bonham's

At the Montpellier Galleries, Montpellier Street, Knights Bridge, London SW7 1HH. Tel. 01-584 9161.

Tuesday, 17th December

OLD CURIOSITIES & BYGONES including antique weapons, arms and militaria, with a fine pair of percussion cap pistols by W. Child, London, and a 17th century Polish wood powder flask; juvenilia, including dolls & lead soldiers; costumes, fans and lace; scientific instruments; and other curios. Cat. 20p.

Wednesday, 18th December

FINE FURS, including leopard, ocelot, sable, mink, fox, seal and musquash, coats, jackets, stoles, and hats, both new and second hand. On view Tues., 10-4, Cat. 20p.

Thursday, 19th December

ENGLISH AND CONTINENTAL FURNITURE, including a Regency rose-

wood tea table on sabre legs; a mahogany bookcase with delicate interlaced astragals, 7ft 4in. high, 6ft. 8in. wide, circa 1900; a coromandel lacquer screen; a longcase clock with green japanned case and brass dial, circa 1750; four 17th Century oak joint stools; a longcase clock by A. Marshall, Glasgow, circa 1850. Cat. 20p.

Thursday 19th December

ENGLISH AND CONTINENTAL PAINTINGS, including works by A. Audina; T. Dingle; J. H. Hooper; G. Houston; W. Hughes; C. E. Kuwasseg; M. Meopes; J. W. Nicol; J. R. Wainwright. Cat. 20p.

Friday, 20th December

PORCELAIN AND WORKS OF ART Cat. 20p.

Bonhams will close for the Christmas Holiday at 5.30 p.m. on Tuesday, 24th December, and will re-open at 9 a.m. on Monday, 30th December.

Thursday, 2nd January

CARPETS AND RUGS. Cat. 20p. Sales on view two days prior. Sales commence at 11 a.m.

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A late 17th Century English Bracket Clock by John Purdew, London, to be sold on DECEMBER 31st.

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 Wednesday, December 18th, at 10 a.m.

OLD & MODERN PAINTINGS
 Wednesday, December 18th, at 2.30 p.m.

FINE QUALITY FURS
 Thursday, December 19th, at 11 a.m.

PORCELAIN, OBJETS D'ART & CARPETS
 Tuesday, December 31st, at 1.30 p.m.

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CONTRACTS & TENDERS

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Ministry of Finance and National Economy
 General Housing Department, Riyadh

Notice for pre-qualification of contractors for the construction of no less than 100,000 Houses and Apartments

in different places of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Applications are invited by the General Housing Department, Ministry of Finance and National Economy, Riyadh for prequalification, from large reputed and International Contracting Firms, who are capable and wish to compete for the construction of no less than 100,000 houses and apartments, within a construction period of three years, in different parts of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia by industrialized/mechanical methods of construction (prefabricated or semi-prefabricated in cement concrete/reinforced only). The object is to expedite the construction at economical costs.

The Housing Project, in addition to construction of houses and apartments, may include construction of Public Buildings.

The Contractor may be required to submit his own designs, if he has any, provided that such designs suit the requirements of the Kingdom and, at the same time, save cost and time to the Government. Only such Firms or Contractors should apply, who own or have acquired the right, to directly operate such equipment for industrialized or mechanized construction with a minimum experience of 10 years in executing huge housing projects in the International field and have successfully used their system for not less than five years.

In addition to any relevant data that they may wish to submit, which can help evaluate the contractors' ability to handle such Projects, the following information may be supplied:

- 1) Full name of Company/Firm and address with its Head office where correspondence is to be directed.
- 2) Record of Company's experience on similar Projects undertaken by the Firm during the last 10 years indicating its location, scope of work, approximate cost of work, time taken for its completion and also the name of the owner.
- 3) Particulars of the system for industrialized/mechanized constructions with the details of equipment for the operation of such system.
- 4) Results of quality tests, technical approvals, or controls by official national or international bodies.
- 5) Examples of prototypes with detailed description and rough estimates of production costs, work completion conditions, and period of construction for completion.
- 6) Name of Company's Directors, Partners or Associates with qualifications and experience of top Engineers.
- 7) Particulars of the Principal Design Team of Architects

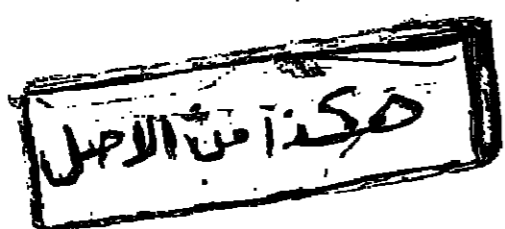
and Engineers with qualifications and experience.

- 8) Details of work in hand, if any, indicating name of its owner, approximate cost, scope of work and expected time involved in its completion.
- 9) Certified copy of last year's balance sheet.
- 10) Details in respect of litigation or arbitration cases, if any, and its result thereof.
- 11) Statement of financial standing with necessary bank certificates.

The applications with the above mentioned details duly supported by documents should be furnished in duplicate in a sealed cover, within one month from the date of this notice, to:

The Ministry of Finance and National Economy,
 General Housing Department,
 Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Riyadh
 Telex No: 20021/Finance/SJ.

All establishments, who do not fulfil the above mentioned requirements are requested not to apply, otherwise any application not in conformity with the above requirements will be ignored.



Saudi Arabia

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BIRTHS BARRETT—On 14th December, ...

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BIRTHS COLLET—On 14th December, ...

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ACROSS 6 People report a cine faulty (8)

DOWN 3 Bedroomed house, 200 sq. ft.—See Property

ACROSS 7 Essential in a business letter? (7)

DOWN 4 Cricketer came with the beer? (6)

ACROSS 8 People report a cine faulty (8)